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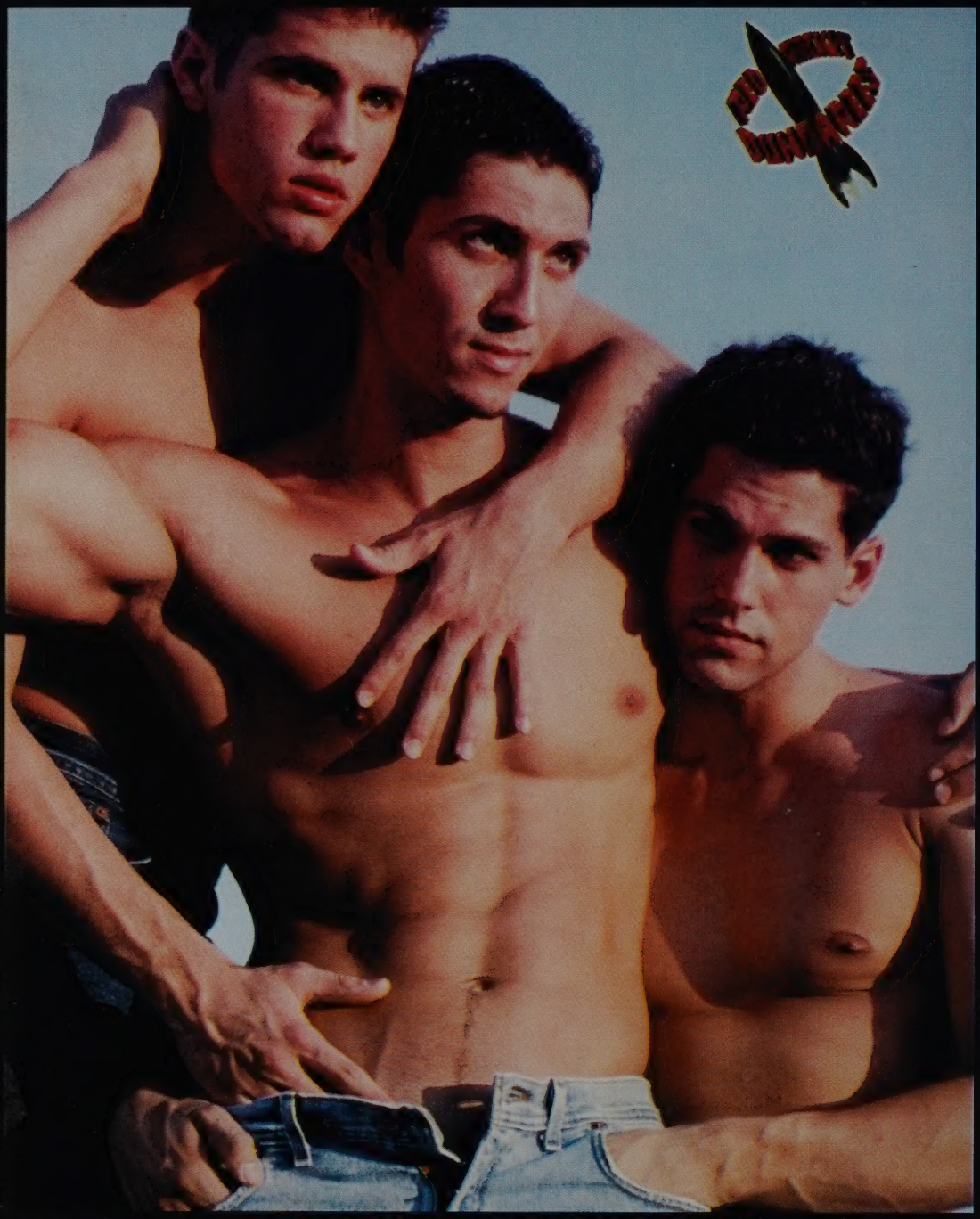

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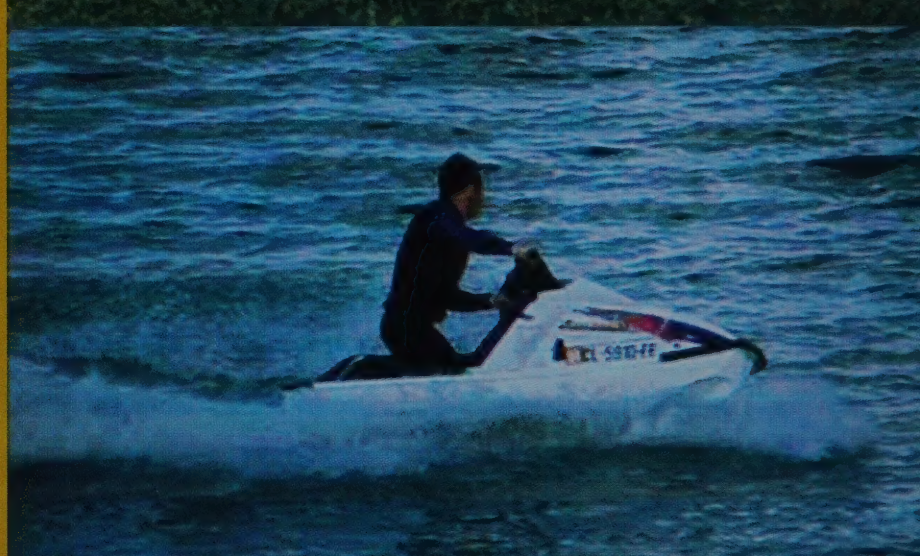

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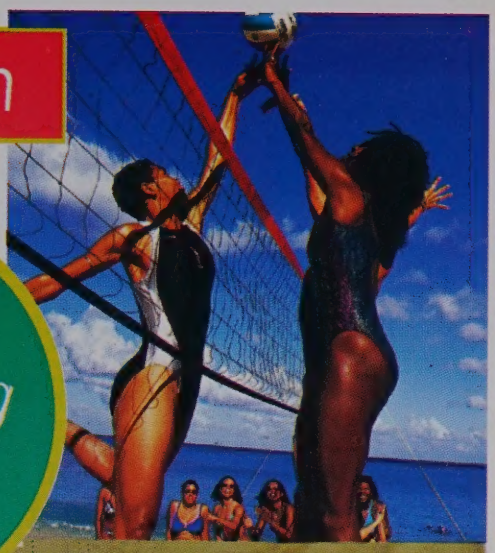

fun

historical

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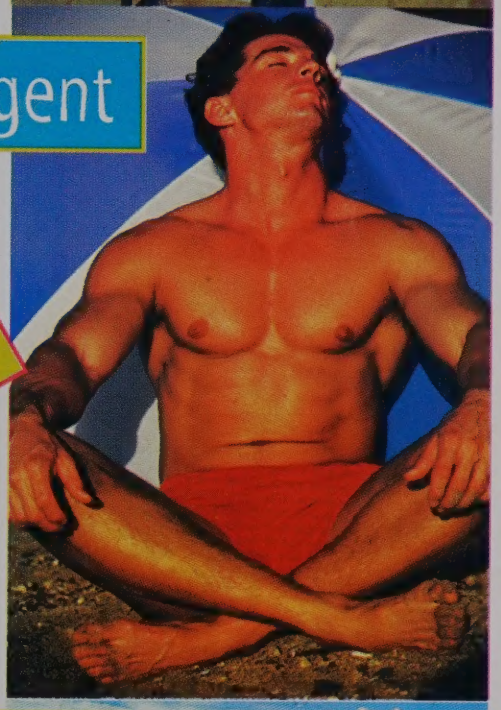

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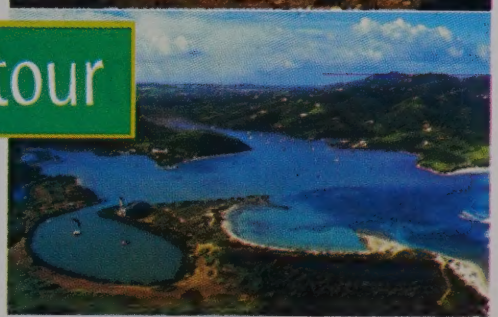

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southern voice

A Window Media Publication

inside hotlanta 100

places

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editor's note

The Hotlanta 100 has been several months in the making. I have to say—it's a labor of love. Although Atlanta is not the city of my birth—I have been here for some time and I'm proud to call it home.

From my perspective, I've watched the city's gay community grow from small and quiet when I arrived in the late '80s, to loud and demanding in the '90s. In the year 2001, Atlanta's gay community is accomplished and comfortable.

Same-sex partners can register their relationship with the city government. That same city government has in place non-discrimination clauses in employment and housing. In Atlanta proper, we have gay representation on the city council. In our suburbs we even have an openly gay mayor and Georgia's archaic sodomy law is now a thing of the past.

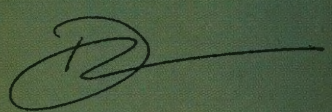
In other words—it's a great time to be gay in Atlanta.

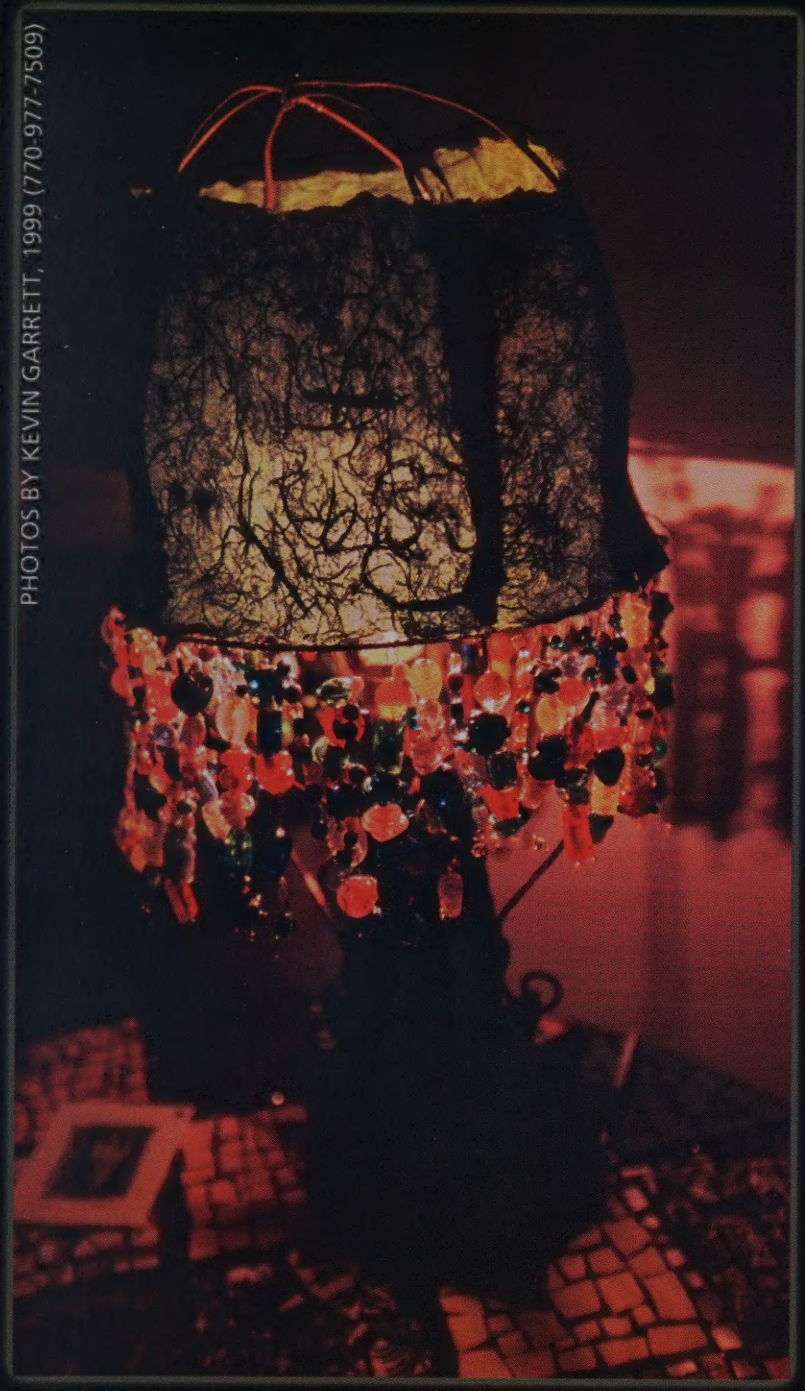
With your help we've painstakingly put together this incredible issue that showcases the best of Atlanta's gay community. In these pages you'll see many places and things you've come to love about our fair city.

More important are the people you'll find in these pages—most of them gay—though you'll find an honorary heterosexual or two that you chose because of some positive contribution they've made.

On that note I must say—there were so many incredible nominations—I only wish we had room for many more. With that in mind, please don't hesitate to get your nominations in right away for next year!

David A. Moore
Editor, *SOVO* Magazine





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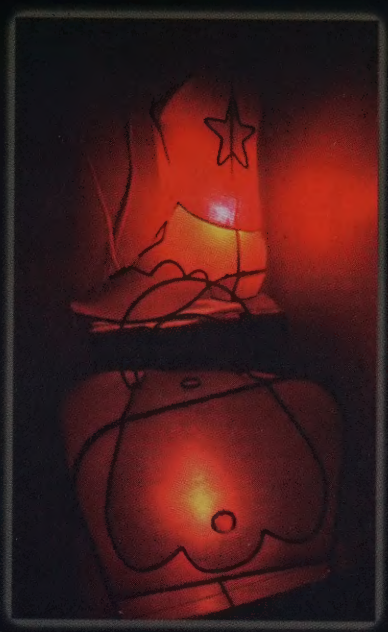

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The Face of Gay Atlanta

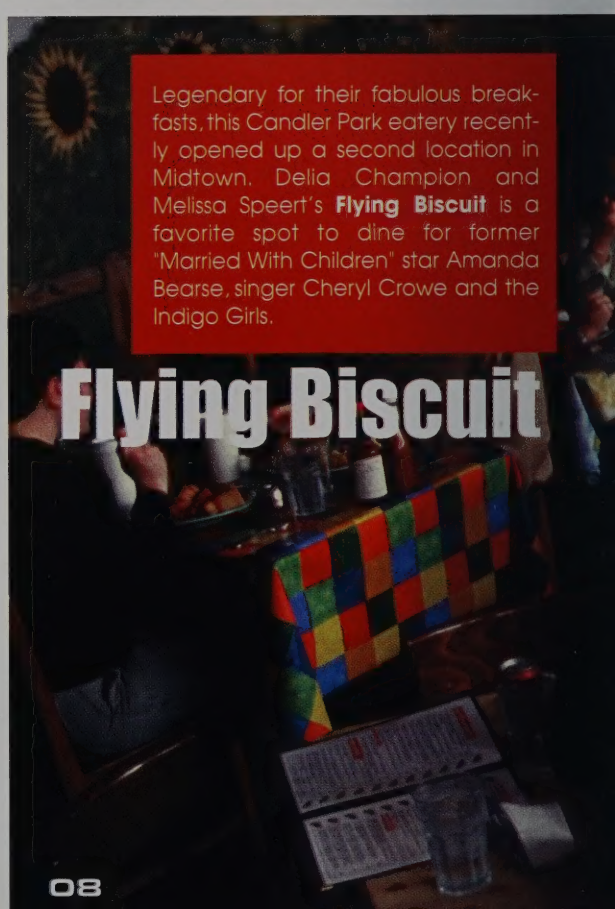
In the year 2001 Atlanta's gay population is a voice heard loud and clear. Indeed, we truly are everywhere. Here's your chance to get a peek at the diversity that makes up our community.

The Hotlanta 100 is exactly what the name implies: 100 people, places and things as chosen by you, the reader. Over the past few months we've been hard at work collecting and reviewing your nominations in the various categories.

The response was exciting. Clearly, gay and lesbian Atlanta is all grown up and a force to be reckoned with. We have our own businesses, restaurants, clubs, politicians, artists, television programs and much, much more.

As you peruse these pages you'll see places and faces familiar and some you're meeting for the first time. In fact, you may even see yourself—or someone very much like you.

We're proud to bring you this glimpse of all the things that make Atlanta a wonderful place for everyone.



Legendary for their fabulous breakfasts, this Candler Park eatery recently opened up a second location in Midtown. Delia Champion and Melissa Speert's **Flying Biscuit** is a favorite spot to dine for former "Married With Children" star Amanda Bearse, singer Cheryl Crowe and the Indigo Girls.

Flying Biscuit

5 Hot Restaurants

Big Red Tomato

Louis Spetrini and Brad Williams' Midtown Italian Bistro **Big Red Tomato** has been a hit from virtually the moment Spetrini laid hands on the spot. Previously one of those seemingly cursed buildings that nothing ever worked in, Spetrini put together a jazzed-up Italian menu that attracts throngs of Midtown dwellers.

GOT 'TINI?

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Rich Selser's **10th & Myrtle** in Midtown serves fun American food in an upscale nouveau atmosphere. Try fabulous foods like pesto chicken Linguini or pork chops with a candied walnut glaze and winter vegetables—you'll never be disappointed.

Roxx

Dean Chronopoulos' restaurant **Roxx** on Cheshire Bridge Road. attracts a youngish gay boy set who like to dine on traditional American fare. You'll feel like you're back at Mom's house when you taste Roxx's meatloaf, steaks and grilled chicken!

Roman Lily Cafe

Calavino Donati's the **Roman Lily Cafe** in Old Fourth Ward is very popular with lesbians and gay men. Undoubtedly it's because the menu is so superb! In addition to fabulous vegetarian food, you'll also find such tasty delectables as banana bread with carmelized ice cream, Romano fried chicken and grilled lamb tenderloin.

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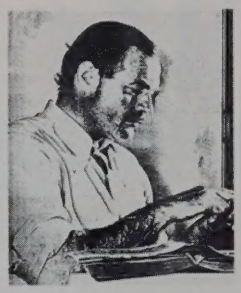
PRESENTS



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Out of Africa

Somewhere out in the wilds of Africa, a great author and journalist sat and wrote at a table not unlike this leather-topped, hardwood Nairobi Safari writing desk (68 x 32 x 30½ inches height) from The Ernest Hemingway Collection by Thomasville. Hemingway would have sat in a folding Nairobi Safari chair similar to the one featured here. Shown with the desk and chair is the Paraiso screen, fashioned from natural, woven water-hyacinth.

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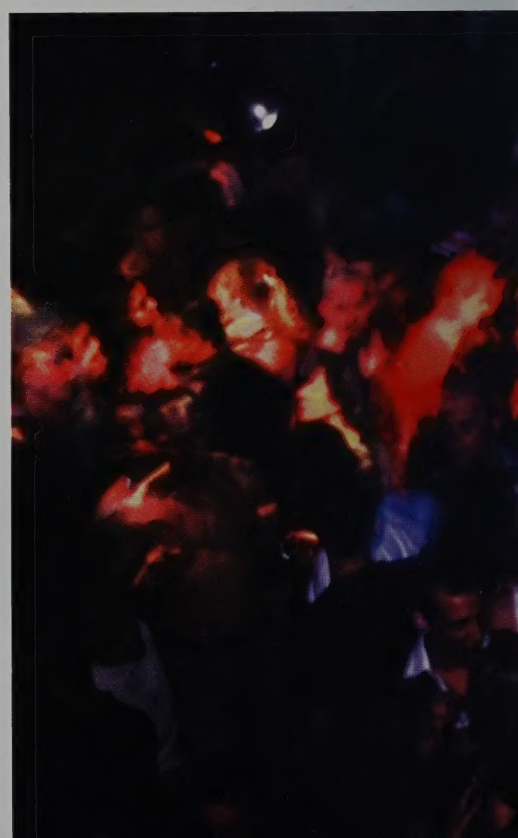


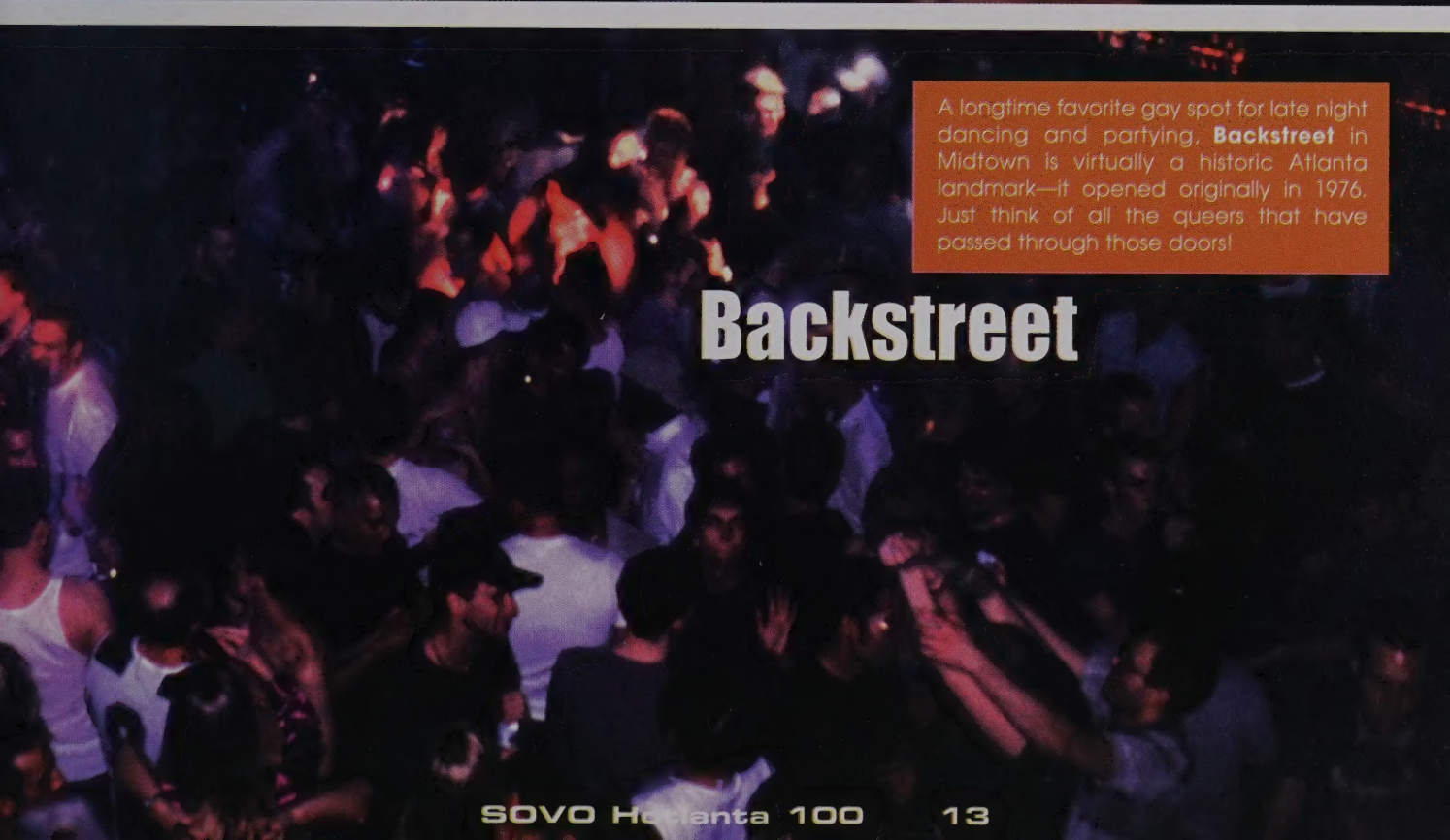
5 Hot Clubs

If high energy music and muscled, shirtless gay men are what turns you on, then you'll probably agree with our readers that picked **Ground Zero** as their fave nightspot for dancing up a storm!

Ground Zero

A longtime favorite gay spot for late night dancing and partying, **Backstreet** in Midtown is virtually a historic Atlanta landmark—it opened originally in 1976. Just think of all the queers that have passed through those doors!

Backstreet



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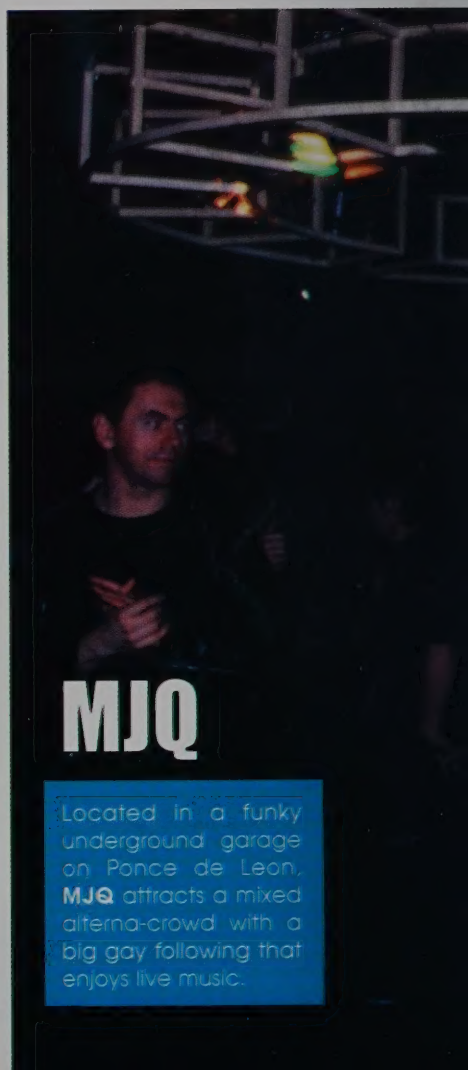


MJQ

Located in a funky underground garage on Ponce de Leon, **MJQ** attracts a mixed alterna-crowd with a big gay following that enjoys live music.

Traxx

A popular mainstay in the African-American gay and lesbian community, it's not surprising to see just about anybody at **Traxx**, a multi-level dance palace in downtown Atlanta.

1150

Located in a massive space that once housed a theater and the now defunct nightclub Petrus, **1150** was chosen by our readers as one of the most comfortable places to mingle in a mixed crowd of gay and straight. The nightspot boasts a cutting edge gallery, stunning lighting and hot music.

5 Hot Bars

Located in downtown Decatur in the fun and funky space that once housed the Atlanta Dream Hostel, **My Sisters' Room** is a happening spot that attracts a crowd of fine Atlanta women of all ages.

My Sisters' Room

Oscar's

Oscar's is the latest addition to the Piedmont Avenue shopping center known as Ansley Square. Adjacent to Ansley Mall, this storefront bar owned by Randy Mcleod and Micheal Sanders now brings the total number of gay nightspots within steps of each other to a total of four! This welcome addition to the area is sleek and stylized with multiple video monitors.

Mary's

The re-birth of East Atlanta in the late '90s was due largely in part to many of the gay residents in the surrounding neighborhoods who wanted a shopping and entertainment district to call their own. It makes sense, of course, that we'd end up with a fun gay bar like **Mary's** right on the corner of Glenwood and Flat Shoals. Spread out on two levels, the bar attracts mostly residents of the surrounding area and a mix of just about every age group to watch videos, play pool and taste the latest libations.

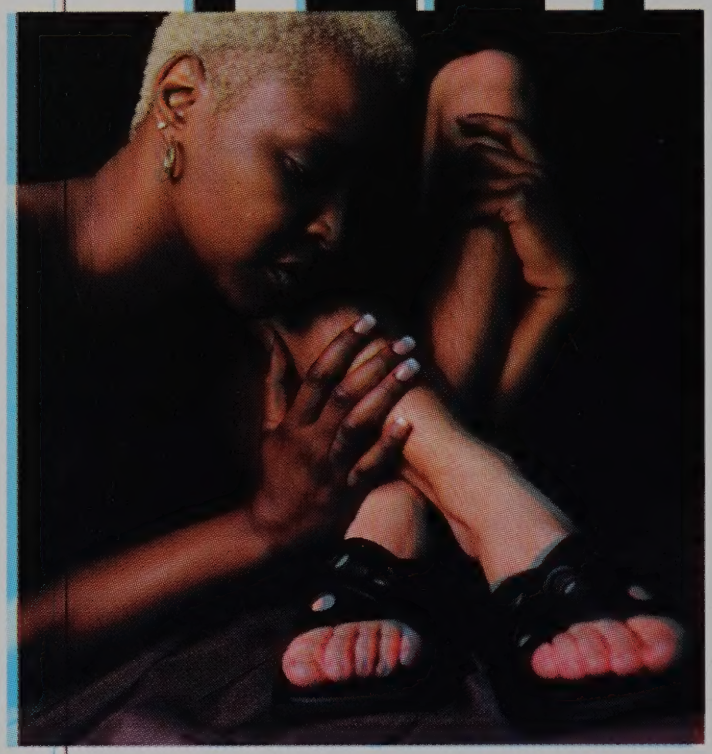
Drag queens and go-go boys: **The Metro** started off its life on the corner of Sixth and Cypress Streets in the early '90s. After that space was razed for expected Olympic development, the bar relocated to 1080 Peachtree. Expanding to a much larger space allowed for the installation of multiple video monitors and a kinky, urban interior. These days the bar packs 'em in with drag shows and specialty nights, like their weekly Latin night, which brings out Atlanta's gay Latinos en masse.

The Metro

A homey, woodsy bar also located in Ansley Square, **Burkhart's** attracts gay men of all ages for drinking, chatting by the fireplace and watching performances by the legendary Gospel

Burkhart's

style is measured in FEET



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5 Hot Businesses

Outwrite Books

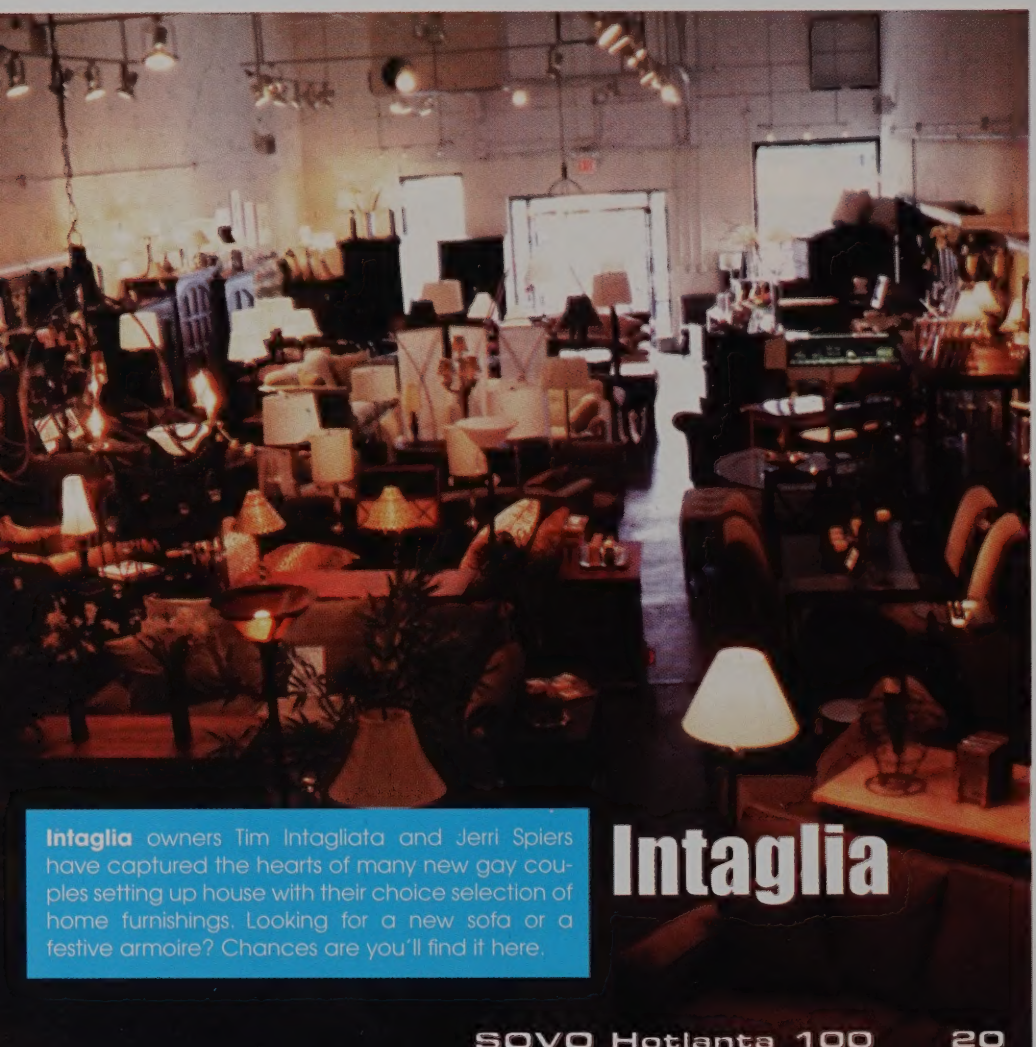
Phillip Rafshoon's gay bookstore **Outwrite Books** originally opened in the Midtown Promenade Shopping Center just down the street from where it is today. The eventual move was a smart one by Rafshoon—it put his business dead center in an area surrounded by numerous spots frequented by gay men. Today Outwrite Books serves as an anchor for the Midtown gay scene.

Cachet Antiques

Cachet Antiques jumped in at the beginning of the Cheshire Bridge antiques renaissance in 1992. Owner Robert Ahlers continues to ride the crest of success with over 60 dealers selling everything from country originals to '50s kitsch.

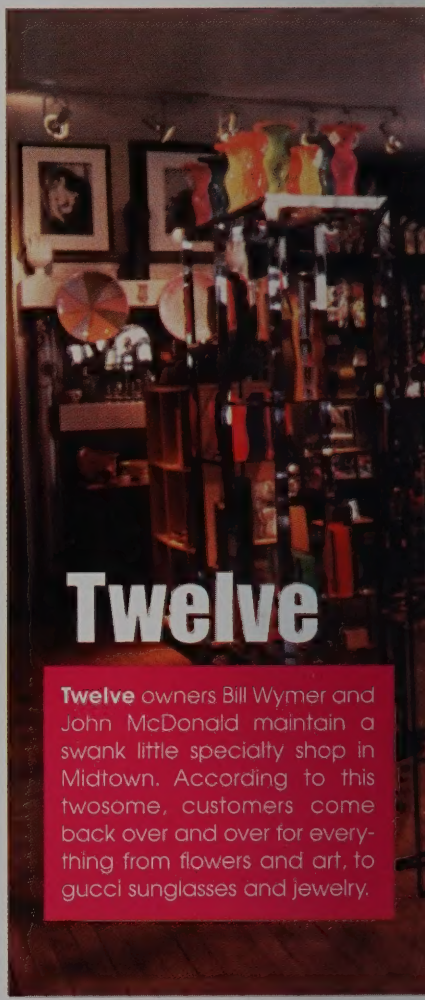
Boy Next Door

David Boswell's store, **Boy Next Door**, sells the hottest new clothing for gay boys on the prowl! Be it club wear or downright trendy and chic, you're sure to find it here.



Intaglia

Intaglia owners Tim Intagliata and Jerri Spiers have captured the hearts of many new gay couples setting up house with their choice selection of home furnishings. Looking for a new sofa or a festive armoire? Chances are you'll find it here.



Twelve

Twelve owners Bill Wymer and John McDonald maintain a swank little specialty shop in Midtown. According to this twosome, customers come back over and over for everything from flowers and art, to gucci sunglasses and jewelry.

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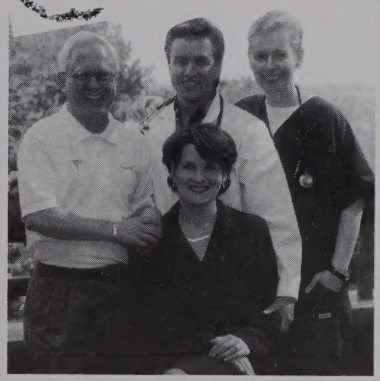

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"Caring for Our Community"

Readers in Atlanta, Birmingham, Nashville and New Orleans will be excited to know SOVO magazine's first annual gay Home and Garden issue hits the streets Friday Sept. 14.

Packed full of beautiful houses, condos, apartments and lofts—look for in-depth profiles of owners and designers, as well as their inside tips on how to achieve what you're looking for in a living environment.

For many in the South, it's that time of year when the leaves are just beginning to change color. Learn how to keep your landscaping and gardening at its most beautiful from our outdoor experts. We'll also tell you where the best prices are for owners and renters—as well as where to find the most enticing up and coming queer neighborhoods.

Thanks, David.

Actors' Express

With 13 years of imaginative entertaining under their belt, **Actors' Express** has inspired the gay community with its productions of "Love! Valour! Compassion!," "The Dying Gaul," "As Bees in Honey Drown," "Jeffrey," and "The Harvey Milk Show."

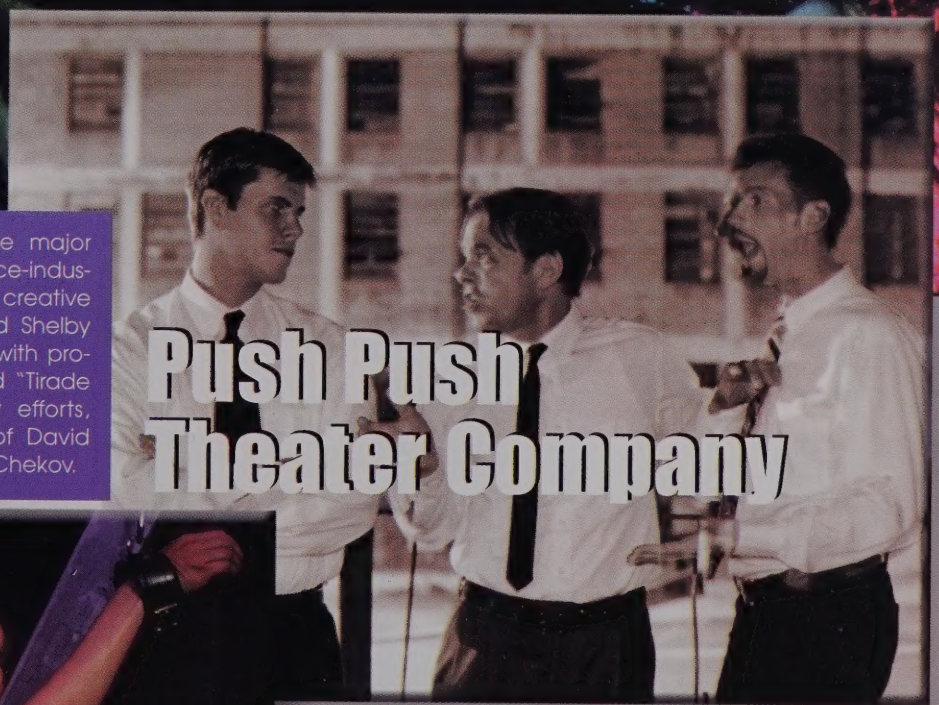
Dad's Garage

Since opening its doors on Elizabeth Avenue in Forth Ward five years ago, **Dad's Garage** has entertained Atlanta with improvisational comedy, as well as original theatrical works. "Poor Superman," "Psycho Beach Party," and "O Happy Day" are among the important works that Dad's Garage has produced for an ever-growing audience of gay fans.

The Center for Puppetry Arts

The Center for Puppetry Arts originally opened in 1978 with a kick-off visit by Muppets creator Jim Henson and one of his favorite creations, Kermit the Frog. Housed in a former school building to which $9 million in renovations have been made, the three-story center is unique around the globe. It includes three theaters, a museum library, gift shop and much more. Over the years the center has produced puppet shows for adults and children, including the New Directions Series, Xperimental Puppetry Theatre and the annual Summer Festival.

5 Hot Theaters



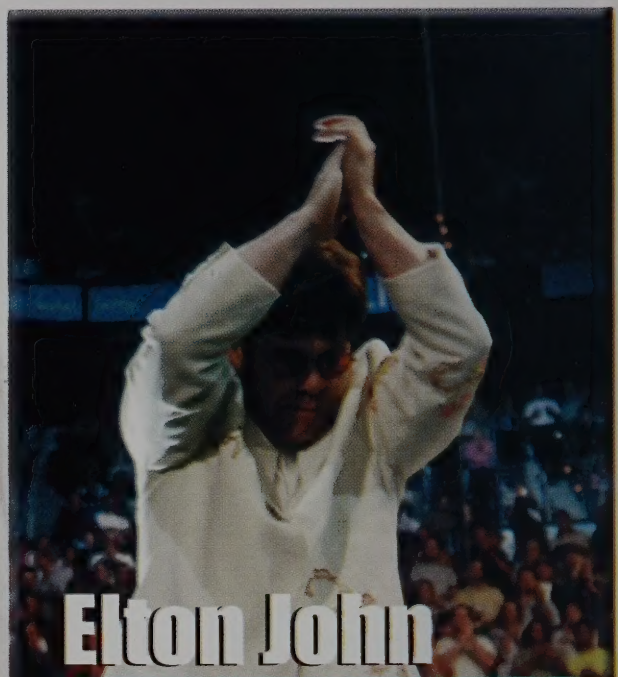
Push Push Theater Company

Push Push Theater Company broke major ground when it chose to open in the once-industrial district on Zonolite Avenue. The creative team of Tim Habeger, Rob Nixon and Shelby Hofer continue to push the envelope with productions of "The Glass Mengerie" and "Tirade for Three." Among other noteworthy efforts, Push Push has produced the works of David Mamet, Tennessee Williams and Anton Chekov.

7 Stages

A Little Five Points success story, **7 Stages** has showcased many groundbreaking performances in Atlanta over the past 23 years. Of note is playwright-in-residence Jim Grimsley, who has given us such celebrated works as "Dream Boy," "Decline and Fall of the Rest," "Math and Aftermath" and "Mr. Universe." The current gem from Grimsley, a lurid tell of sexual experience, is entitled "In Berlin." In addition, 7 Stages is a favorite on the performance circuit, having hosted such notables as Quentin Crisp, Annie Sprinkle, Karen Finley and the Stuffed Puppet Theatre.

5 Hot Musicians



Elton John

The name **Elton John** speaks for itself. His musical career began in England in the 1960s. His accomplishments include numerous musical hits, scores for film and theater and even a role in "Tommy" as the Pinball Wizard. These days John spends his time in Atlanta and England and reportedly has a home in Cannes, as well. Through his work with the Elton John AIDS Fund he has touched the lives of many.

Michelle Malone

With the release of her seventh studio album "Hello Out There," **Michelle Malone** is seemingly unstoppable. She has sold more than 15,000 copies of her CD "Homegrown" and to date has sold more than 100,000 CDs in a career that dates back to 1987.

Indigo Girls

Grammy winners the **Indigo Girls**, both longtime Atlanta residents (Amy Ray is actually a native, Emily Saliers is from Connecticut), have made history with their musical contributions to the world. From the single "Closer to Fine" to the albums "Swamp Ophelia" and "Shaming of the Sun," as well as their contributions to the soundtrack for "Boys on the Side," the Indigo Girls continue to garner legions of fans with their folksy, rockin' blend of music.

George Skaroulis

George Skaroulis' musical compositions have been compared to the likes of David Foster, Chris Spheeris and Jim Brickman. Since 1996 he has released four CDs, including "Homeland," "Numinous" and his latest, "Generations." Most recently Skaroulis has been commissioned to record his own piano interpretations of Spheeris' works. So far, Spheeris says, "The music sounds like someplace between heaven and the Greek Isles."

Pat Briggs

Pat Briggs, the former front man for the band Psychotica, has made a name for himself at clubs in New York and Los Angeles with fabulous productions and parties. In Atlanta he's done the same thing with his infamous "Glitterdome" night at The Chamber.

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Motion

Motion is the circuit boy's drag performer of choice. Long a performer on the Atlanta scene, she's lauded for her creative costuming and high energy dance skills.

Trina Saxxon

Trina Saxxon began her career in the late '80s headlining with the retro-comedy-drag performance troupe Eleganza. In addition to a starring role in the underground cult film "Have You Seen Krystal Lite?" Saxxon has made regular appearances on the public access TV show, "Peg: Mouth of the South."

EJ Aviance

EJ Aviance is a regular at clubs like the Metro and The Chamber's monthly Glitterdome night. Unlike many in the often very traditional Southern drag scene, EJ likes to experiment with his appearance, using his body and face as a canvas.

5 Hot Drag Queens

Charlie Brown

A 30-year veteran of the Atlanta drag entertainment scene, Charlie Brown continues to pack 'em in with her southern comedic flare and seemingly never-ending barrage of one-liners aimed at unsuspecting customers. A resident of Austell, Georgia, Brown heads up "Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret" every week at Backstreet in Midtown. She's also been featured on HBO.

Tina DeVore

Tina DeVore is a legend in her own time. Long a favorite among Burkhart's Gospel Girls fans, she also writes a column about the local cross-dressing entertainment scene called Draggin' it Out.

Charone Pagett

A regular at WRFG 89.3FM for the past seven years, Charone Pagett hosts and produces "Lambda Radio Report," a weekly 30-minute infotainment show aimed at Atlanta's queer community. Since her initial involvement with WRFG, she has also produced the long-running show "Gay Graffitti" and contributed to such programs as "Still Ain't Satisfied." Originally from Greensboro, N.C., Charone has called Atlanta home since 1989.

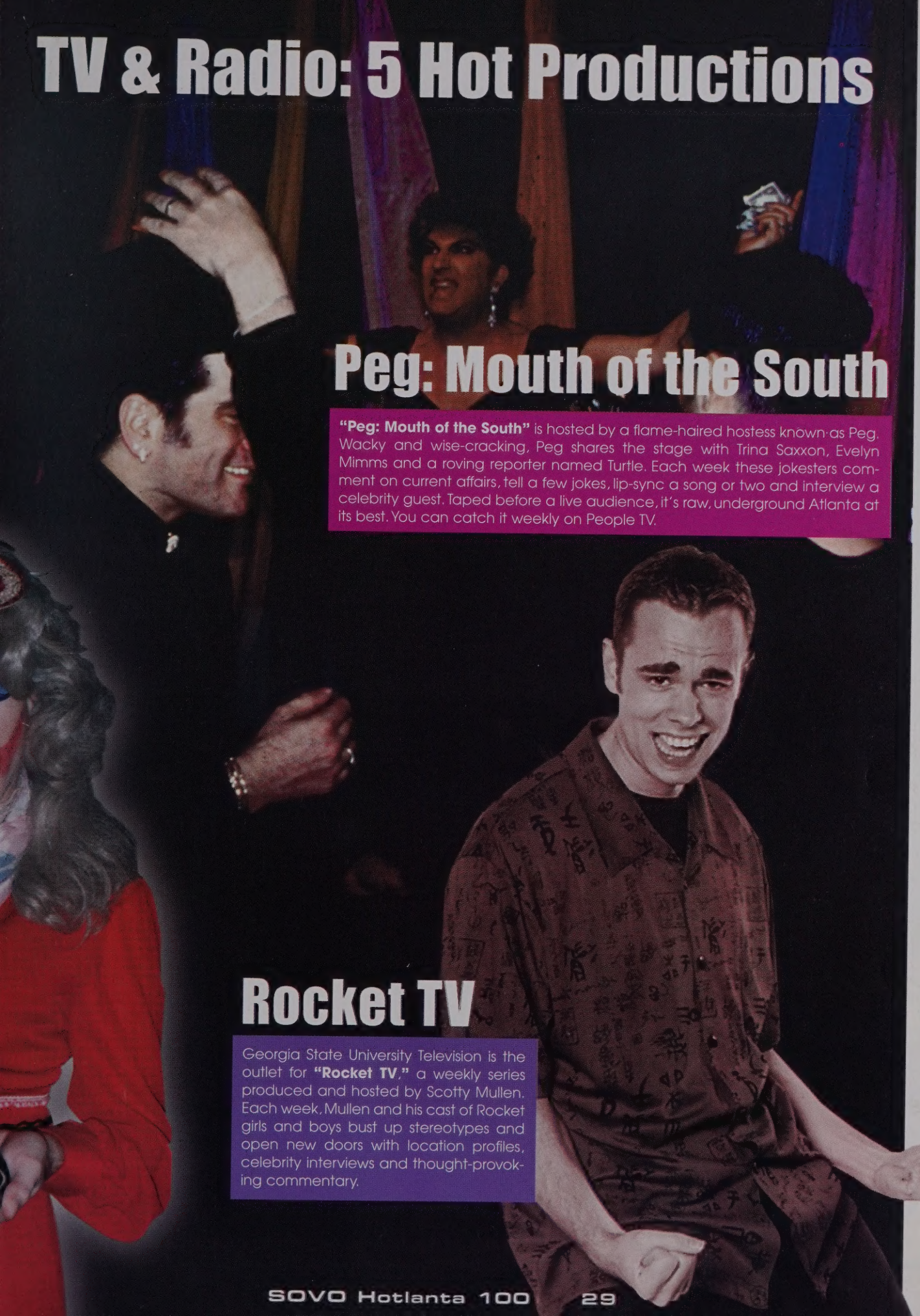
Ooh La La

"Ooh La La" producer Linda Paris knows a good bad thing when she sees it! A 10-year veteran of Atlanta's public access station People TV, Paris lampoons politics, entertainment, religion and just about every unspeakable topic you can think of with her own inimitable style.

The DeAundra Peek Show

"The DeAundra Peek Show" just goes on and on and on forever! As long as there's DeAundra you can bet producer Dick Richards will continue to churn out this funky fun video show that highlights the monotone talents of this unusual, but charming performer. Ever heard her sing? It's something else.

TV & Radio: 5 Hot Productions



Peg: Mouth of the South

"Peg: Mouth of the South" is hosted by a flame-haired hostess known as Peg. Wacky and wise-cracking, Peg shares the stage with Trina Saxxon, Evelyn Mimms and a roving reporter named Turtle. Each week these jokesters comment on current affairs, tell a few jokes, lip-sync a song or two and interview a celebrity guest. Taped before a live audience, it's raw, underground Atlanta at its best. You can catch it weekly on People TV.

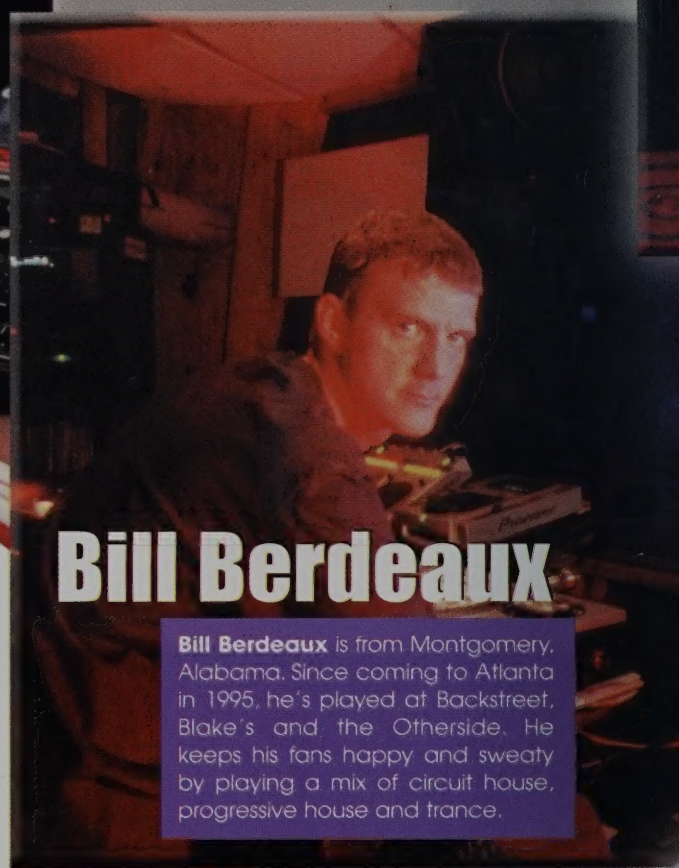
Rocket TV

Georgia State University Television is the outlet for **"Rocket TV,"** a weekly series produced and hosted by Scotty Mullen. Each week, Mullen and his cast of Rocket girls and boys bust up stereotypes and open new doors with location profiles, celebrity interviews and thought-provoking commentary.

5 Hot DJs

Chip Davis

Chip Davis has been a regular at such places as the Rarity and Ground Zero. Originally from Grand Rapids, Mich., he's spent the past four years in Atlanta. In addition to his busy DJ career, Davis also produces corporate trade shows and has worked as an agent for the Screen Actor's Guild.



Bill Berdeaux

Bill Berdeaux is from Montgomery, Alabama. Since coming to Atlanta in 1995, he's played at Backstreet, Blake's and the Otherside. He keeps his fans happy and sweaty by playing a mix of circuit house, progressive house and trance.

Al Opecia

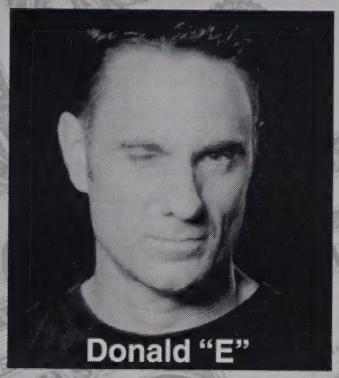
Al Opecia is the main man at the Metro in Midtown. A native Atlantan, he spent the late '70s and most of the '80s in New York City. After kicking off his DJ career in Madrid, Spain in 1988, he returned to Atlanta in 1991. Since that time he's spun at Velvet, March, Backstreet and Kaya, among others.

DJ Chai

Originally from Thailand, **DJ Chai** has been in Atlanta for three years. At Ground Zero he plays a fun mix of progressive house and high energy trance.

Craig Spy spins at Ground Zero and Blake's. He plays high energy music with happy *up* vocals for raver kids and the circuit crowd. Originally from Michigan, he's been in Atlanta for five years.

And Whooooooooo ...



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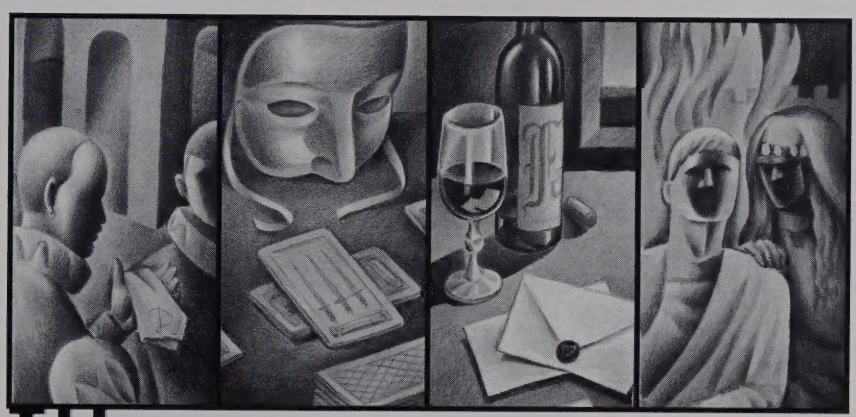

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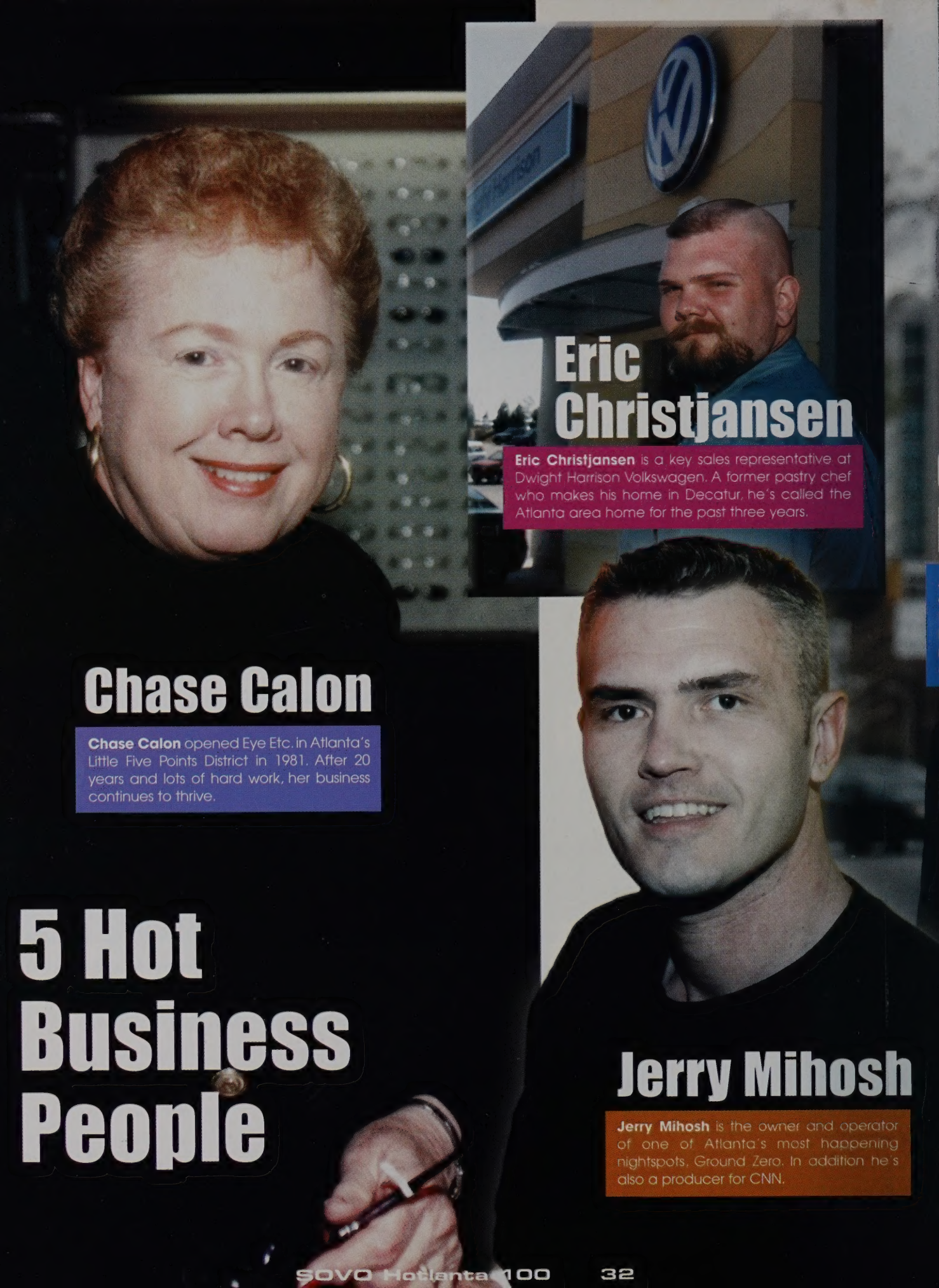

5 Hot Business People

Chase Calon

Chase Calon opened Eye Etc. in Atlanta's Little Five Points District in 1981. After 20 years and lots of hard work, her business continues to thrive.

Eric Christjansen

Eric Christjansen is a key sales representative at Dwight Harrison Volkswagen. A former pastry chef who makes his home in Decatur, he's called the Atlanta area home for the past three years.

Jerry Mihosh

Jerry Mihosh is the owner and operator of one of Atlanta's most happening nightspots, Ground Zero. In addition he's also a producer for CNN.

ary
rice

gtime Midtown Atlanta resident, **Gary Price** is a real e agent for Coldwell Banker/The Condo Store. nuary, with over $14 million in total sales volume, as named agent of the year. Another accomplish- that makes him proud: he's a lifetime member of his pany's 'Million Dollar Club.'

Donna Armstrong

Atlanta native **Donna Armstrong** has been the owner and president, as well as a broker, for Re/Max Metro Atlanta since 1990. In that esteemable position she's in charge of 120 agents and two locations.

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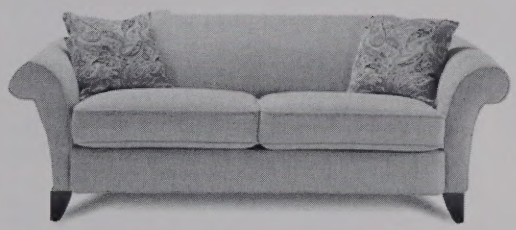

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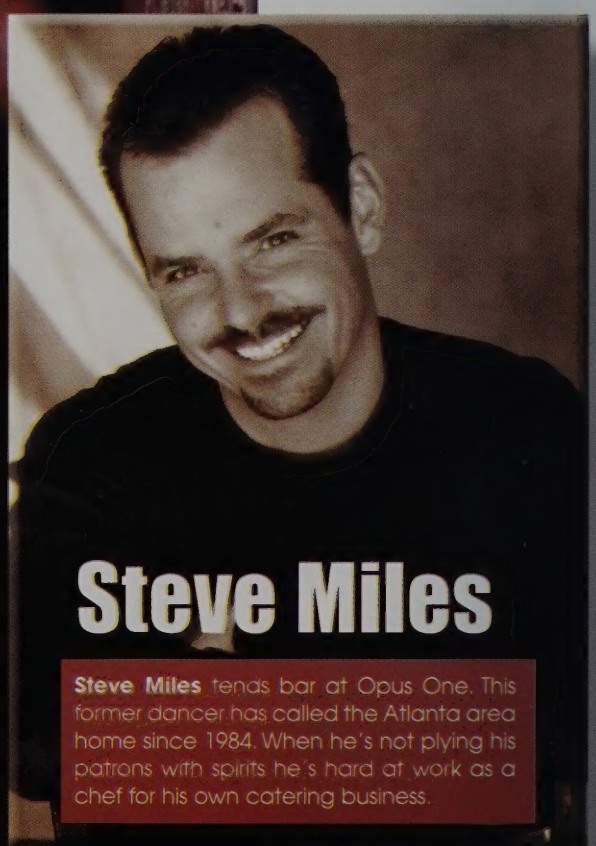
5 Hot Bartenders

Phillip Stotler

Midtown resident and Metro bartender **Phillip Stotler** is a former Mr. Georgia Hotlanta and Mr. Georgia USA. He likes to play tennis and dance.



Steve Miles

Steve Miles tends bar at Opus One. This former dancer has called the Atlanta area home since 1984. When he's not plying his patrons with spirits he's hard at work as a chef for his own catering business.

Spike

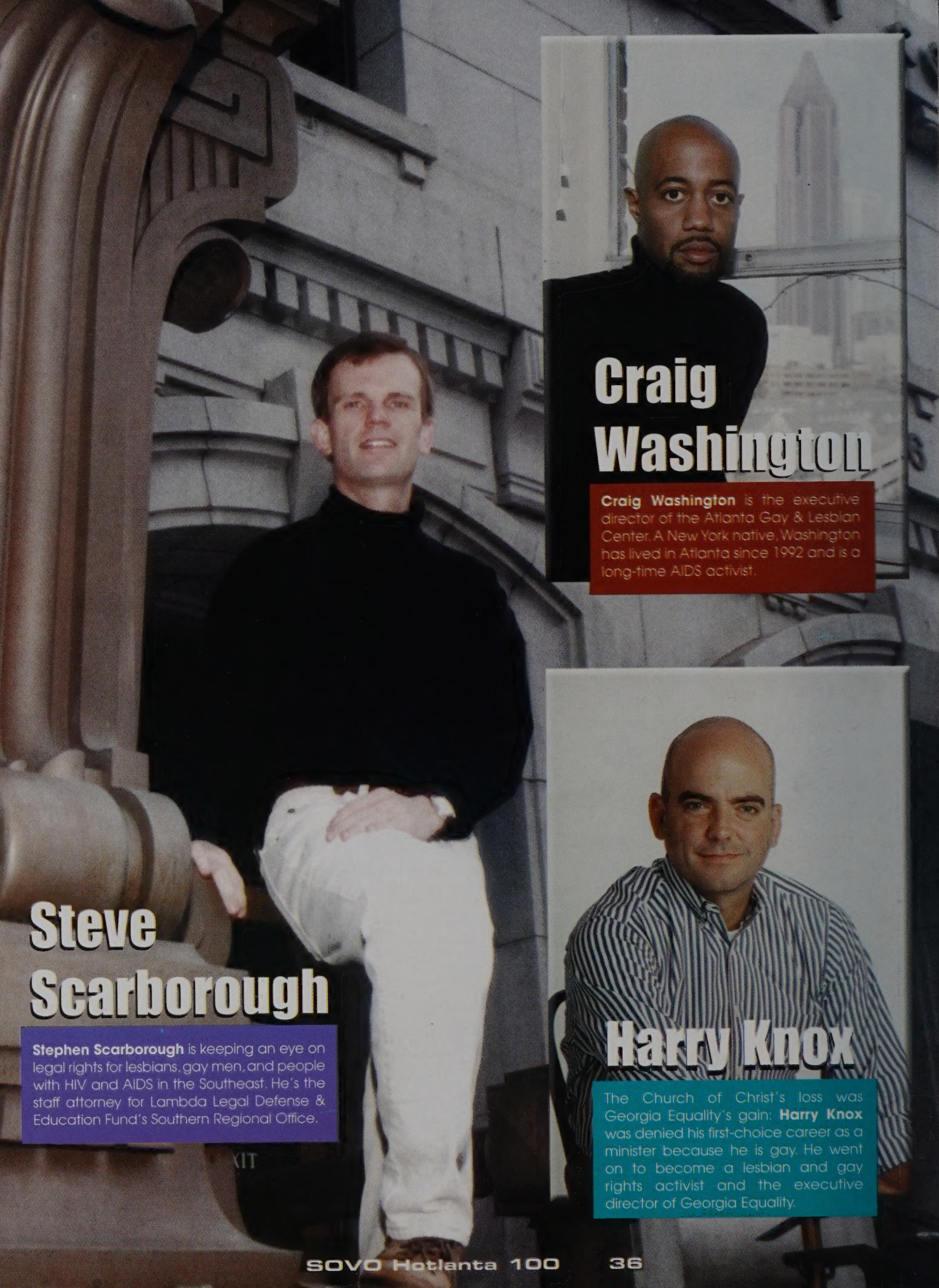
Spike pours drinks with a smile at the Atlanta Eagle. Originally from Orlando, Fla., he's been in the Atlanta area for the past two years. He makes his home with his partner Doug in the quiet Atlanta suburb of Rex. Patrons at the Eagle remember Spike fondly for his record-breaking fast service behind the bar.

Bad Boy Brian

The Heretic's **Bad Boy Brian** is from Flint, Mich. An Atlanta resident for the past four years, he makes his home in Midtown. Happily single, he enjoys working with computers in his spare time and has an interest in Web design.

Bart Clennon

A bartender and promoter at Backstreet, **Bart Clennon** enjoys working out, roller-blading and being a professional couch potato. When he's not working, chances are you'll still catch him in Midtown—he loves dining out at restaurants like Nickiemoto's and Big Red Tomato.



Craig Washington

Craig Washington is the executive director of the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center. A New York native, Washington has lived in Atlanta since 1992 and is a long-time AIDS activist.

Steve Scarborough

Stephen Scarborough is keeping an eye on legal rights for lesbians, gay men, and people with HIV and AIDS in the Southeast. He's the staff attorney for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund's Southern Regional Office.

Harry Knox

The Church of Christ's loss was Georgia Equality's gain: **Harry Knox** was denied his first-choice career as a minister because he is gay. He went on to become a lesbian and gay rights activist and the executive director of Georgia Equality.

5 Hot Activists

Lawrie Demorest

Lawrie Demorest, attorney at Alston & Bird, is a long time activist for gay and lesbian rights. She was recently appointed to the Human Rights Campaign's Board of Directors after co-chairing HRC's Board of Governors. Currently she chairs Cathy Woolard's re-election campaign.

Asha Leong

In November 2000 at the annual Creating Change Conference **Asha Leong** was awarded the Community Service Award for her work with the Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice. When she isn't painting, writing, or playing rugby, she can often be found at the Youth Pride center in Decatur.

5 Hot Politicians

Kecia Cunningham

Decatur City Commissioner **Kecia Cunningham** became the first openly gay African-American elected to public office in Georgia in November 1999. She has served as vice-chair of the Decatur Development Authority and on the Finance Committee for Decatur City Schools.

Alex Prince

Elected to the East Point City Council in 1999, **Alex Prince** was the fourth openly gay elected official in Georgia. This year, along with gay Council member Bobby Carnes, Prince plans to introduce a resolution declaring a Gay Pride Week, a first in the South Fulton city that is increasingly popular with gays.

Karla Drenner

Freshman State Representative **Karla Drenner** (D-Avondale) is the only out gay person in the Georgia General Assembly and has already proved an unswerving defender of lesbian and gay rights. Drenner works as an environmental consultant and lives with her partner and two young children.

Cathy Woolard

Sixth District representative **Cathy Woolard** was the first openly gay person to take a seat on the Atlanta City Council. Since Woolard, a management consultant, took office in 1998, she's supported lesbian and gay causes and worked extensively on city management.

Al Fowler

Al Fowler became the first openly gay mayor in Georgia when in 2000 he was inaugurated as Pine Lake mayor, a job he still holds. He also served on the Pine Lake City Council after moving from Los Angeles to be closer to his family.

5 Hot Community-Minded People

Dr. Richard Hudson

AIDS and HIV specialist **Dr. Richard Hudson** is known in the Atlanta gay community as a compassionate physician. He runs a private practice while serving many AIDS organizations, including the AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta.

Don George

Don George is a gay rights activist and the president of the Georgia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. He's also a doctor and a self-described "gay venture capitalist."

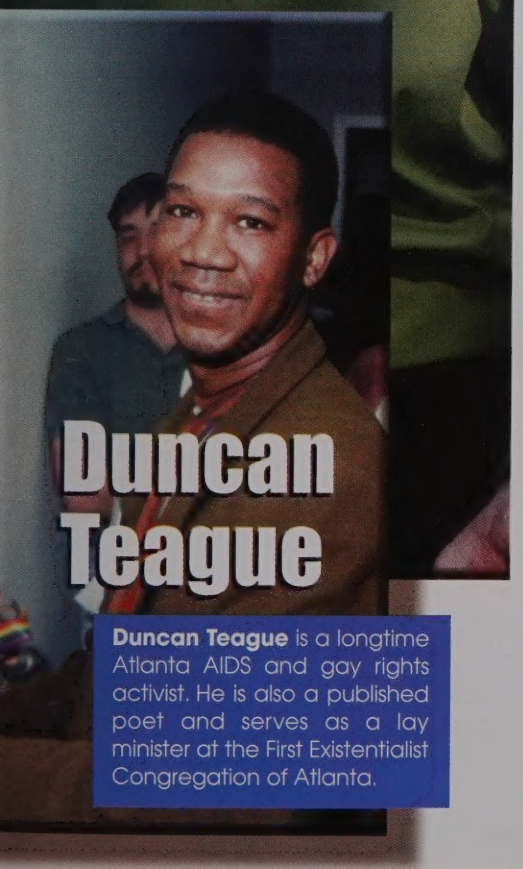
Photo by TIM WILKERSON

Donna Narducci

Donna Narducci has been the executive director of the Atlanta Pride Committee for five years. She has also worked at Emory University and Georgia Tech as an associate director of student activities. She lives in Midtown with her partner Linda and their puppy Scooter.

Jack Pelham

In addition to his work as the editor of *Etcetera* magazine **Jack Pelham** is working to advance the Atlanta arts scene by co-producing the city's lesbian and gay film festival. He's particularly proud of the fact that he was one of the key people on Atlanta's Gay & Lesbian Pride Committee in 1991—the year that saw the festival jump from a previous count of 3,000 to 30,000.



Duncan Teague

Duncan Teague is a longtime Atlanta AIDS and gay rights activist. He is also a published poet and serves as a lay minister at the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta.

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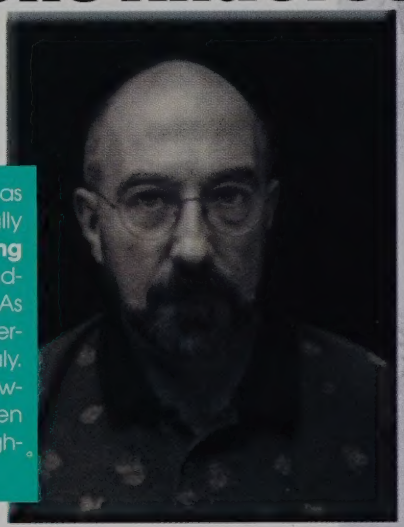
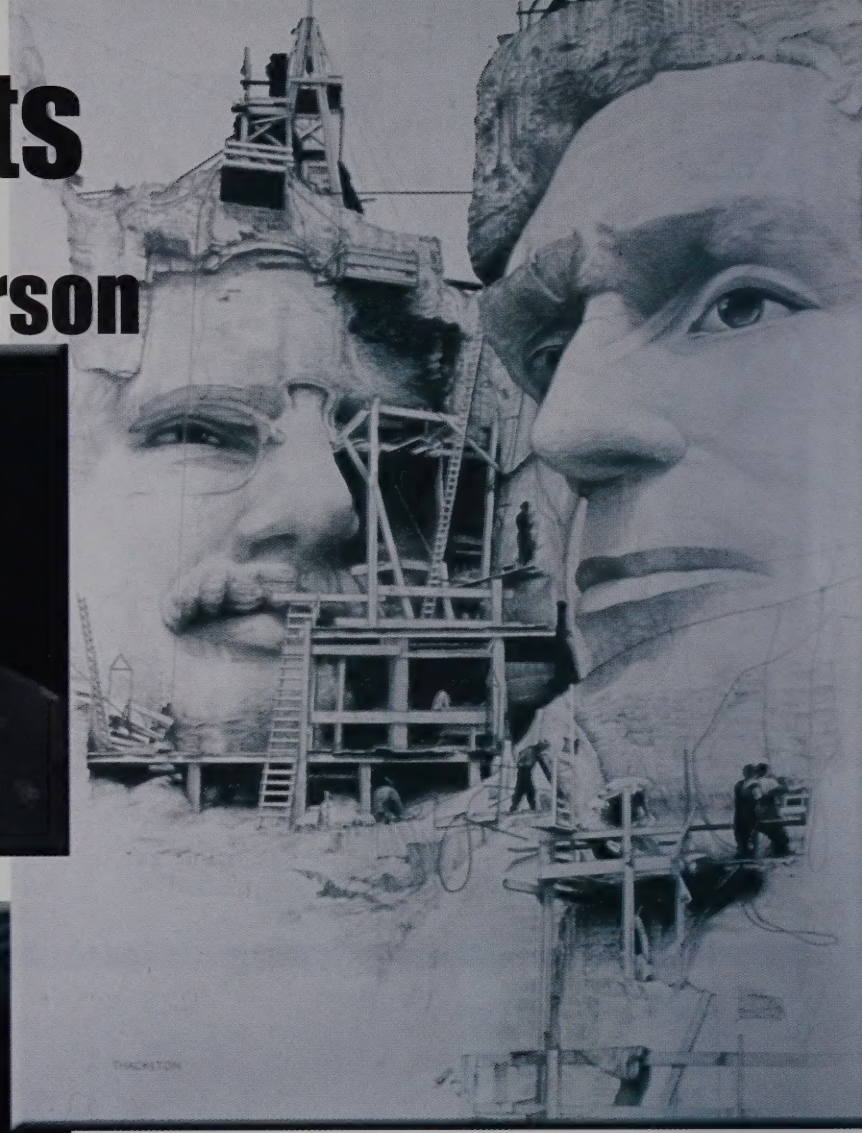
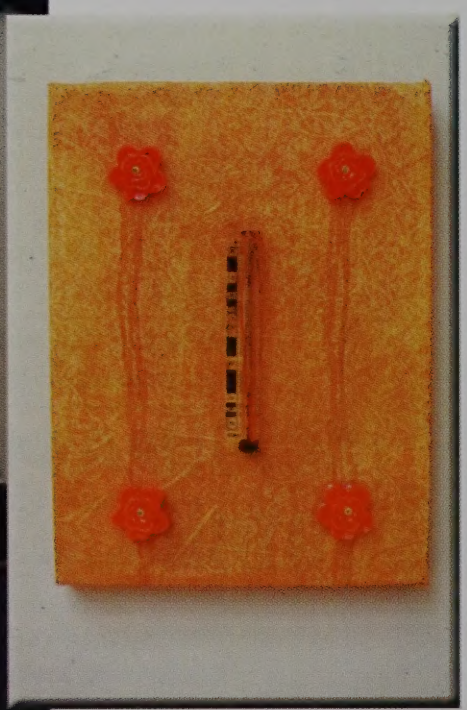
5 Hot Artists

Larry Jens Anderson



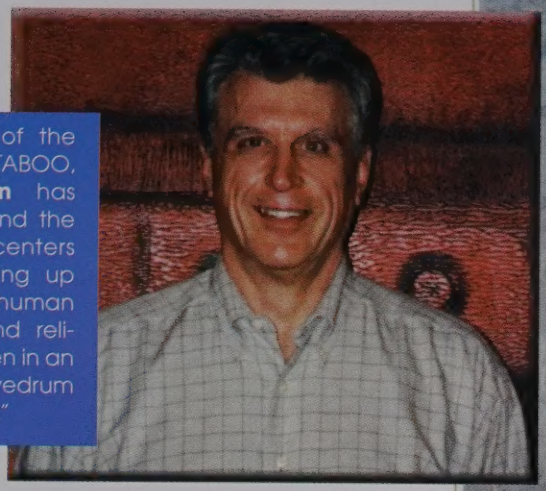
In addition to his work as the eco and spiritually aware Green Man, **King Thackston** is also a founding member of TABOO. As Green Man he has performed in Venice, Italy. His paintings and drawings have been seen by art patrons throughout the South.





Candice Bennett

Candice Bennett is the Director of Marketing & Publicity at The Contemporary. Originally from Ormond Beach, Fla., her work is primarily mixed media: found objects and photographic images. She also curates shows for 1150.



One of the founders of the curatorial art collective TABOO, **Larry Jens Anderson** has exhibited his work around the globe. His art often centers around sexuality, growing up gay, the AIDS crisis, human rights issues, politics and religion. His work can be seen in an upcoming exhibit at Eyedrum entitled, "The Penis Show."

Larry Jens Anderson

Robert Sherer

Robert Sherer is certainly no stranger to the limelight. His controversial male nudes have been banned all around the South. He's also the author of a new book detailing his experiences with artistic censorship.

Naylon Mitchell

Naylon Mitchell's goal is to create beautiful and colorful images for people to live with. A former actor who appeared on "Days of Our Lives," Mitchell has returned to his roots to pursue a career in art. His work focuses on African-American nostalgia.

5 Hot

Lisa Adler

Lisa Adler is the co-founder and co-artistic/producing director of Horizon Theater Company. The producer of more than 60 plays since she founded the company in 1983, she last appeared onstage in "The Art of Dining." In addition to her work with Horizon and as an actor, she's also directed critically acclaimed productions of "Escape from Happiness" and "The Heidi Chronicles."

Brad Sherill

Brad Sherill has appeared in "Wuthering Heights: The Musical," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "The Legend of Pecos Bill," and "Charlotte's Web." An associate artist for 11 seasons at Georgia Shakespeare Festival, he was voted by *Atlanta Magazine* as Best Actor for 2000.

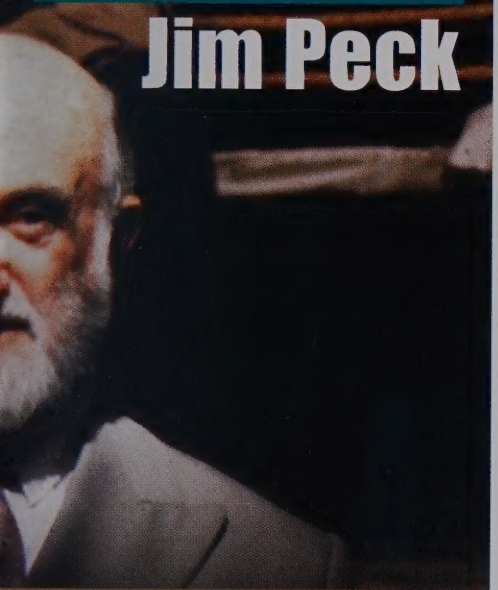
Donn Finney

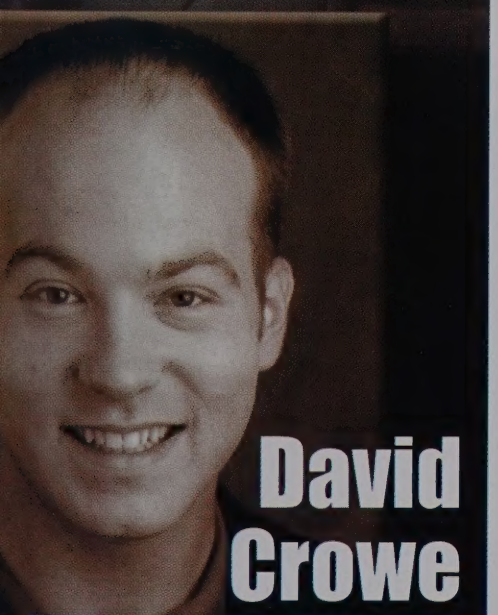
Donn Finney is no stranger to the Atlanta stage. He was Truman Capote in "Tru" and Oscar Wilde in "Gross Indecency. In addition to his work with acclaimed director Joseph Chaikin in "Endgame" and "Waiting for Godot," he's currently appearing in "In Berlin" at 7 Stages.

Actors

Jim Peck has been seen in such plays as "Wit," "The Heiress," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde." An actor, director and playwright for the past 30 years, he now resides in Atlanta.

Jim Peck





David Crowe

David Crowe is a local actor and director. A graduate of the Actors' Express intern program and a veteran of such Express shows as "Love! Valour! Compassion!" "Man & Superman," and "Handler," he's onstage next at Actors' Express for "The Mystery of Irma Vep."

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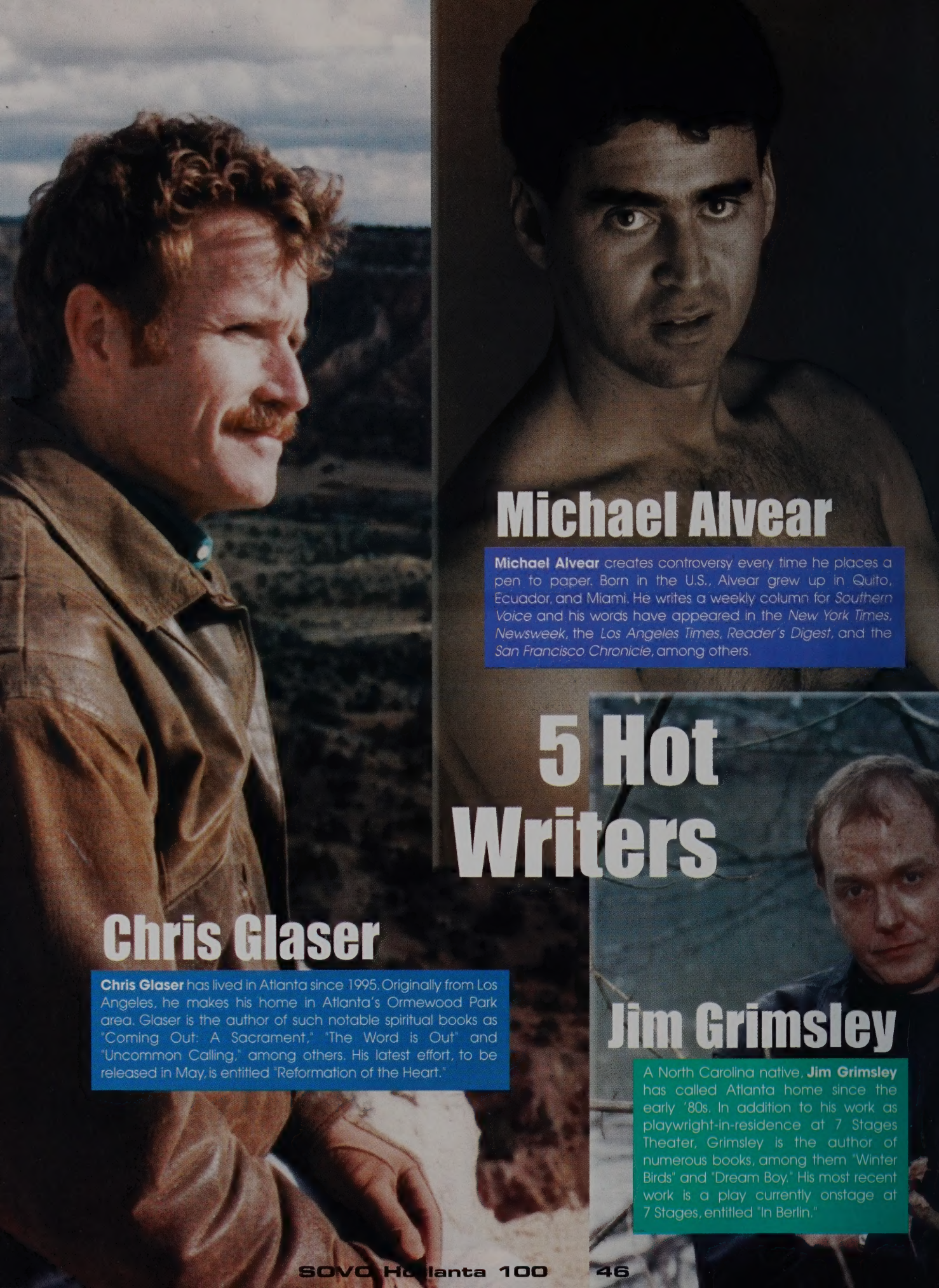

5 Hot Writers

Michael Alvear

Michael Alvear creates controversy every time he places a pen to paper. Born in the U.S., Alvear grew up in Quito, Ecuador, and Miami. He writes a weekly column for *Southern Voice* and his words have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Reader's Digest*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, among others.

Chris Glaser

Chris Glaser has lived in Atlanta since 1995. Originally from Los Angeles, he makes his home in Atlanta's Ormewood Park area. Glaser is the author of such notable spiritual books as "Coming Out: A Sacrament," "The Word is Out" and "Uncommon Calling," among others. His latest effort, to be released in May, is entitled "Reformation of the Heart."

Jim Grimsley

A North Carolina native, **Jim Grimsley** has called Atlanta home since the early '80s. In addition to his work as playwright-in-residence at 7 Stages Theater, Grimsley is the author of numerous books, among them "Winter Birds" and "Dream Boy." His most recent work is a play currently onstage at 7 Stages, entitled "In Berlin."

Steve Murray

Steve Murray is a film critic for the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*. An accomplished playwright, he's perhaps best known for "Rescue & Recovery" at Actors' Express, as well as "Cupid's Bones" at Horizon Theater.

Shirlene Holmes

Shirlene Holmes is an associate professor in communications at Georgia State University. A poet and dramatic writer, she's penned such local theatrical successes as "Shawtys II," "Family Tree," "A Lady and A Woman" and "Cousins." She's also a volunteer support coordinator for the Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative.

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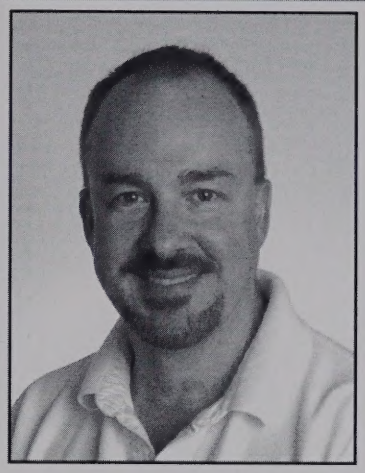

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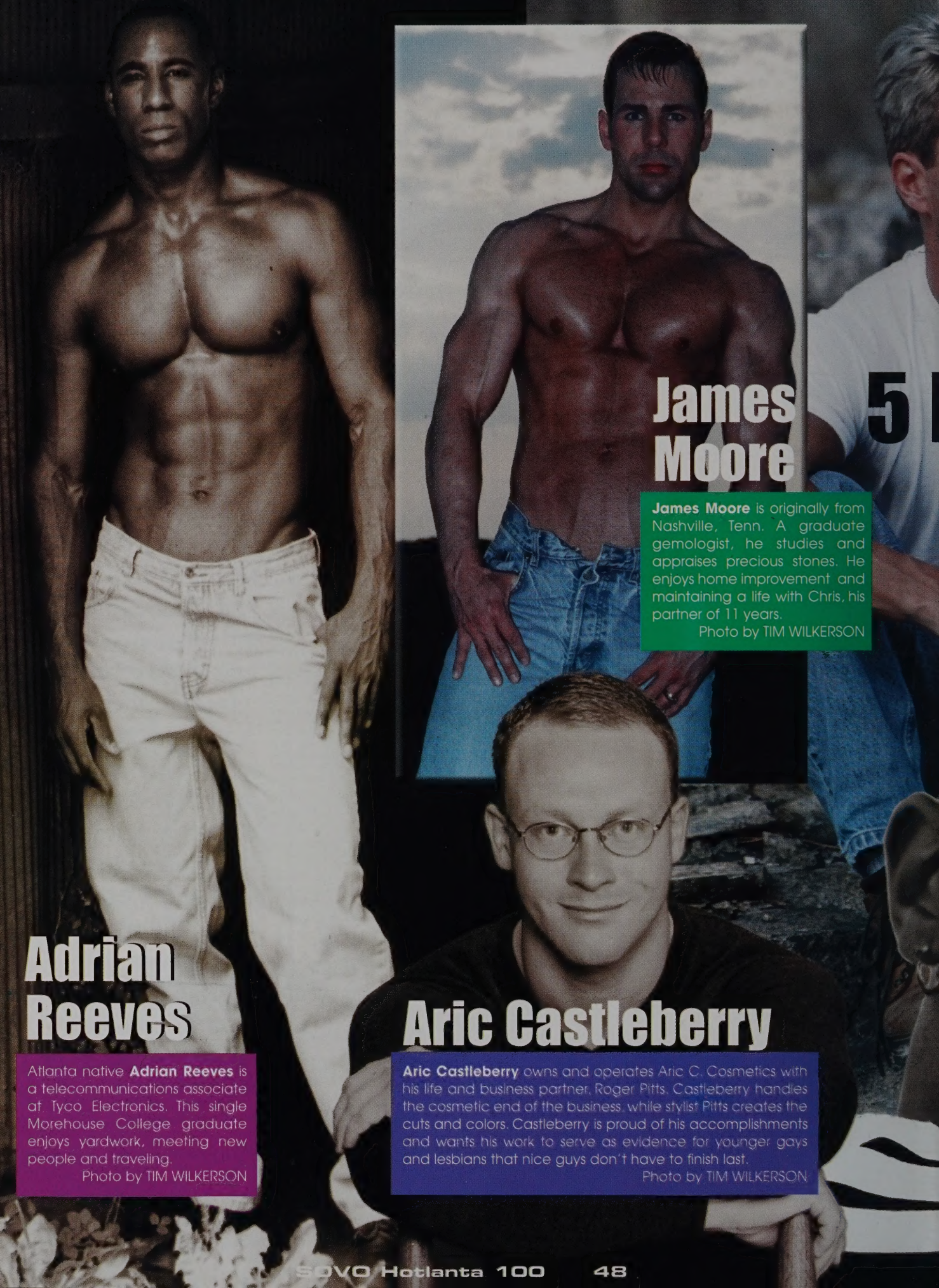


James Moore

James Moore is originally from Nashville, Tenn. A graduate gemologist, he studies and appraises precious stones. He enjoys home improvement and maintaining a life with Chris, his partner of 11 years.

Photo by TIM WILKERSON

Adrian Reeves

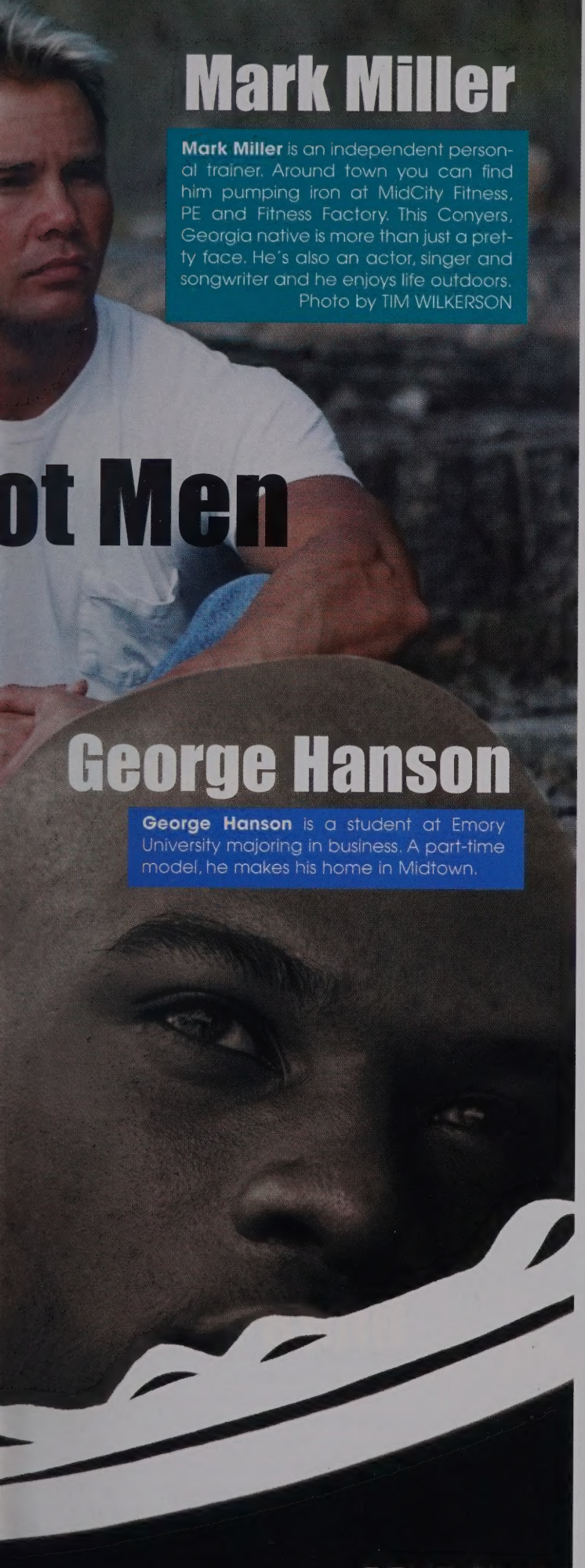
Atlanta native **Adrian Reeves** is a telecommunications associate at Tyco Electronics. This single Morehouse College graduate enjoys yardwork, meeting new people and traveling.

Photo by TIM WILKERSON

Aric Castleberry

Aric Castleberry owns and operates Aric C. Cosmetics with his life and business partner, Roger Pitts. Castleberry handles the cosmetic end of the business, while stylist Pitts creates the cuts and colors. Castleberry is proud of his accomplishments and wants his work to serve as evidence for younger gays and lesbians that nice guys don't have to finish last.

Photo by TIM WILKERSON



Mark Miller

Mark Miller is an independent personal trainer. Around town you can find him pumping iron at MidCity Fitness, PE and Fitness Factory. This Conyers, Georgia native is more than just a pretty face. He's also an actor, singer and songwriter and he enjoys life outdoors.
Photo by TIM WILKERSON

ot Men

George Hanson

George Hanson is a student at Emory University majoring in business. A part-time model, he makes his home in Midtown.

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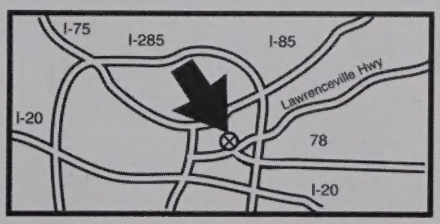

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5 Hot Women

Sonya B. Ware

Sonya B. Ware is a police officer at Emory University. You'll also find her tending bar part-time at the Tower II. Originally from Rome, Georgia, she enjoys running, working out and roller-blading.

Jennifer Leonard

Originally from Philadelphia, corporate sales whiz **Jennifer Leonard** has made her home in Atlanta for the past five years. When she's not crunching the numbers, she enjoys golf, music and theater.

Blondie Strange

Blondie Strange is a legend in her own time. A well-known dancer at the ultra-funky Clermont Lounge (you can catch her famous beer can crushing act there Thursday through Saturday nights) she's also a poet.

Petray Bond

Petray Bond isn't ashamed of the fact that she's an avid birdwatcher and encourages more birdwatchers to take that first step out of the closet. A busy writer for the local press, she's also a spoken word artist.

Annemarie Poyo

Annemarie Poyo owns and operates poyohinton photography with her partner Kay Hinton. Their works have appeared in numerous publications, including *SOVO Magazine*, *Atlanta Magazine*, *Jezebel* and *Etcetera*, among others. Poyo makes her home with Hinton in Decatur.

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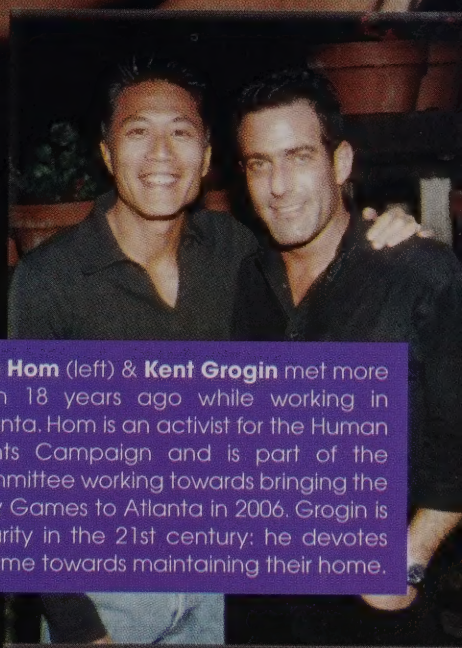
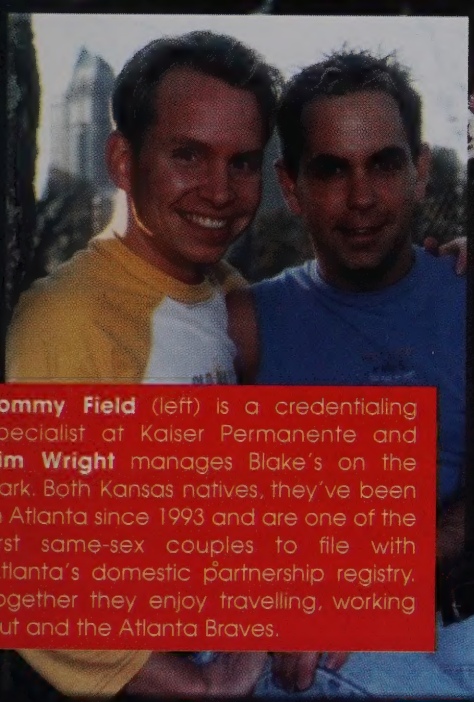
5 Hot Couples

A Michigan native, **Xina Sy** (left) has been in Atlanta for two years. She's a writer, poet and mom and she operates her own business. Women's Empowerment, Inc. offers self-improvement programs for Women throughout Atlanta. Sy's partner **Ajara Jones** is from New Jersey. A newcomer to Atlanta—she's only been here a little over a year—she's a police officer for MARTA.



Ray Hom (left) & **Kent Grogin** met more than 18 years ago while working in Atlanta. Hom is an activist for the Human Rights Campaign and is part of the committee working towards bringing the Gay Games to Atlanta in 2006. Grogin is a rarity in the 21st century: he devotes his time towards maintaining their home.



Tommy Field (left) is a credentialing specialist at Kaiser Permanente and **Tim Wright** manages Blake's on the Park. Both Kansas natives, they've been in Atlanta since 1993 and are one of the first same-sex couples to file with Atlanta's domestic partnership registry. Together they enjoy travelling, working out and the Atlanta Braves.

Mark Jackson (left) and **Tom Schloeder** own and operate Brushstroke's. Together since 1992, they're partners in business and life. Avid collectors of movie memorabilia, they also enjoy the local theater scene and travelling to New York regularly for Broadway shows.

Cindy Abel (standing) owns and operates the public relations and advertising firm Bizvox. Her partner **Dr. Barbara Rubin** is a private practice court psychologist for Fulton County Superior Court. Together for five years, the two maintain a home in Grant Park.

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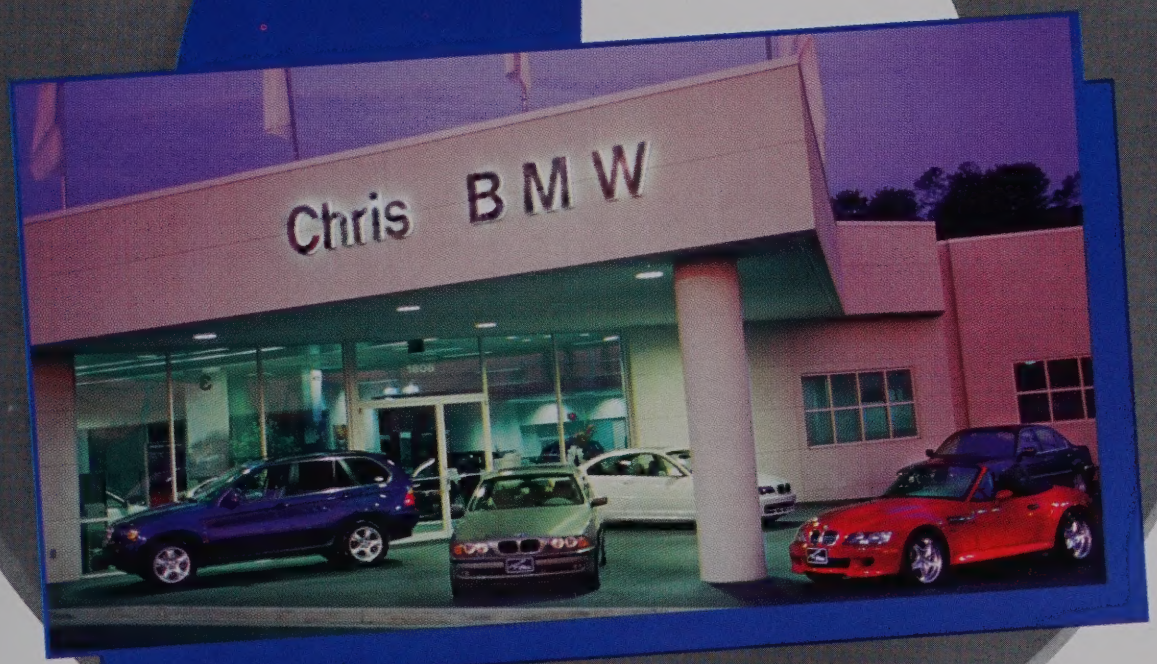

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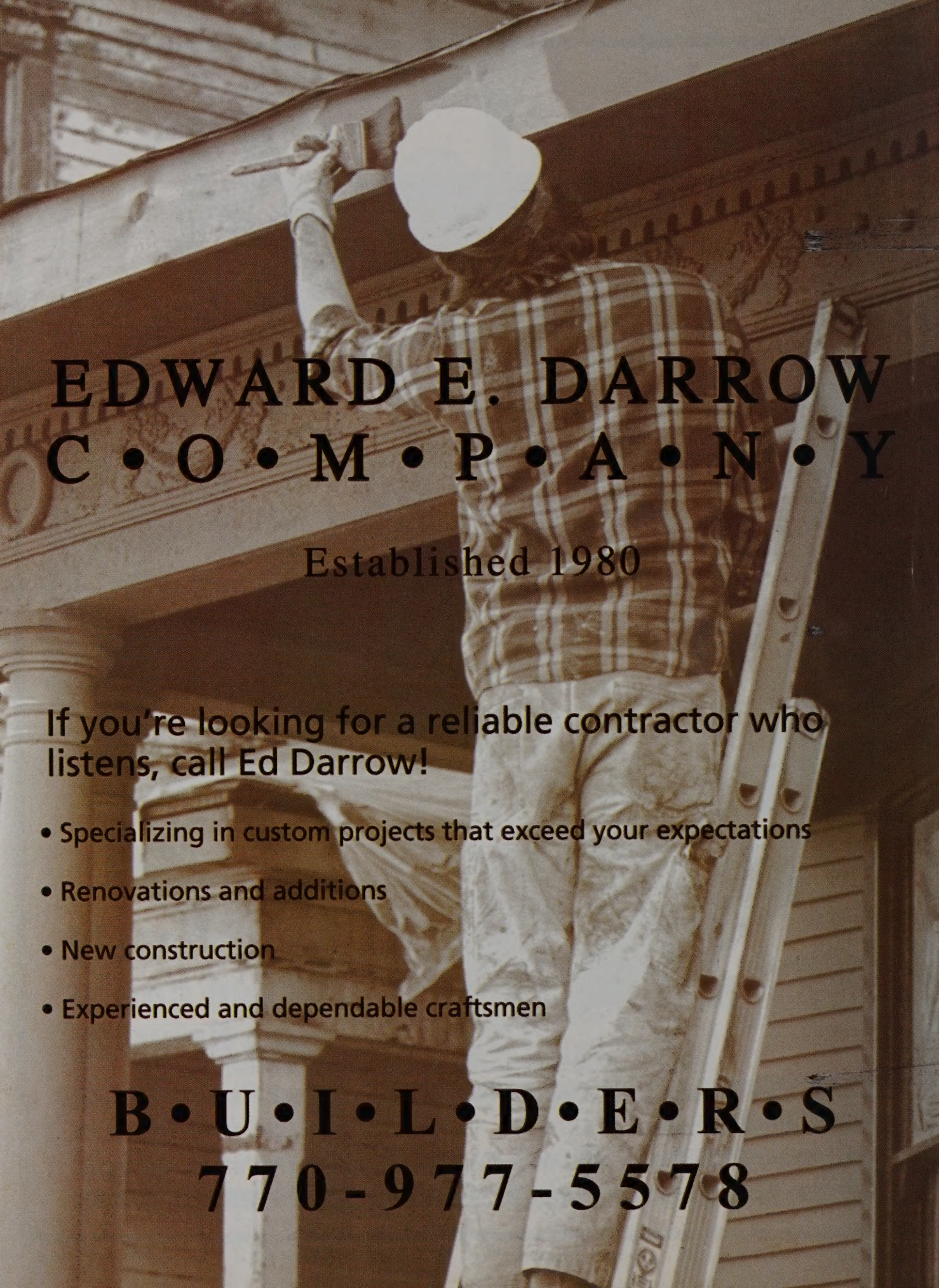

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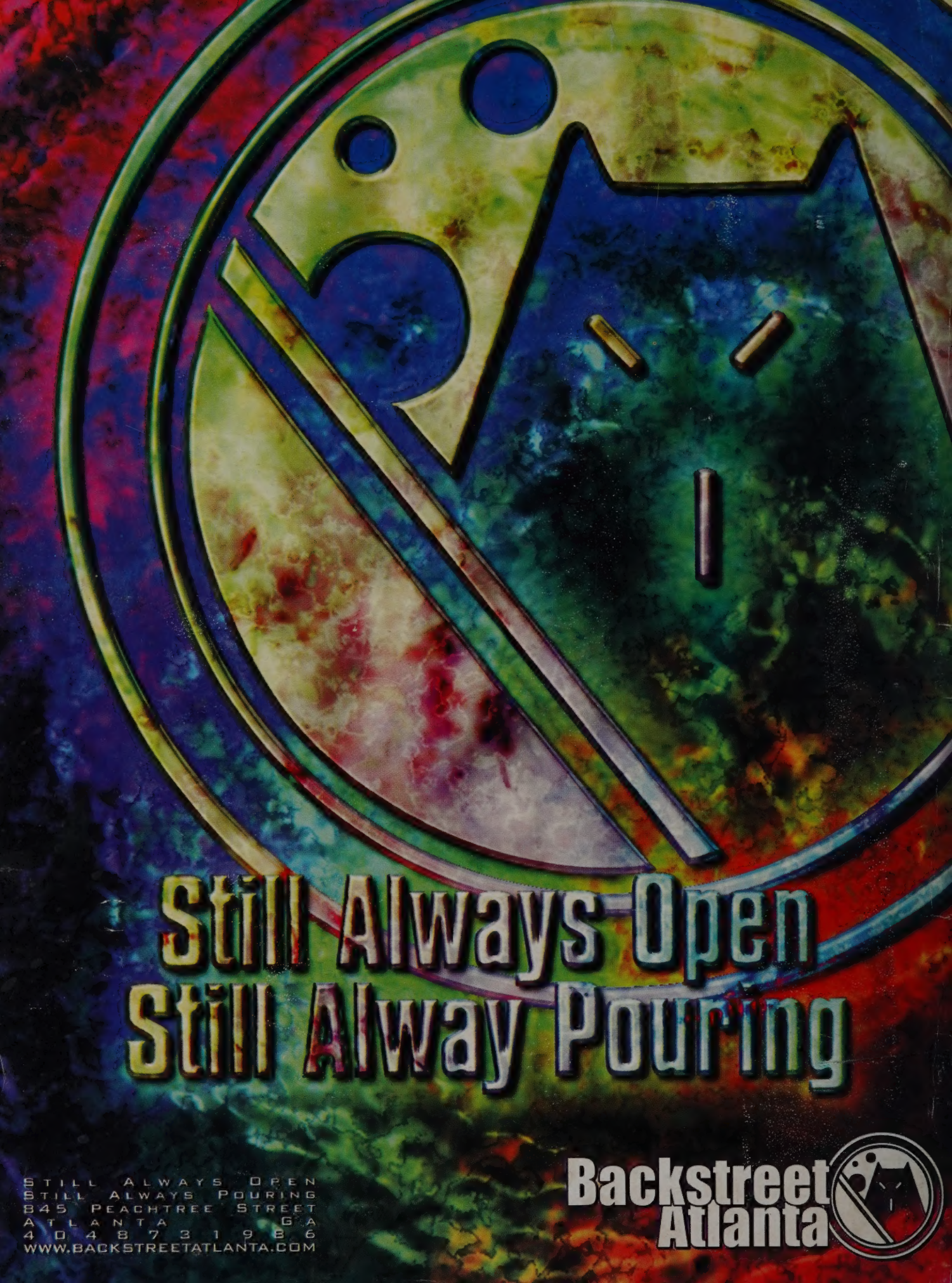
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